

HACKNEY COMMUNITY DEFENCE ASSOCIATION

1992 PRESS CUTTINGS

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Get me to the airport on time car dash salvages dream

HERO COPS SAVE BOY'S DISNEY TRIP

TWO Hackney coppers saved the day for a teenager and his family whose minibus was crushed in a horror road smash with a juggernaut as they were on their way to the holiday of a lifetime.

Youngster Adam Bartlett, 13, had saved for years to enjoy the dream trip to Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida, and was in floods of tears when it

looked like the cruel twist of fate was to snatch it away from him at the last moment.

But after doctors patched up his injuries at Homerton Hospital, the two Pcs turned super-heroes to save the boy's dream. They bundled the crying teenager into their patrol car, switched on their sirens and flashing lights, and roared to the airport - arriving just three minutes before his flight left!

Adam and his family were laughing and singing as they set off on their holiday last Friday morning. But their excited, happy voices turned to screams of terror after the nightmare accident on the Eastway, Hackney Wick.

Miraculously, no-one was killed in

the smash, although doctors at first feared the teenager might be blinded from shards of glass embedded in his face.

As they battled to save his sight, and treated a head wound that needed 18 stitches, the youngster sobbed his heart out as the minutes ticked away and his Disneyworld dream faded into the distance.

Chief Insp Ken Day, from Hackney police station, said: "He was so upset that doctors had to call in the two constables who took him to the hospital to calm him down. Pcs Phil Mockett and Mark Coppin told him not to worry and that there was still an hour left to catch his flight, but I don't think even they really believed it.

"Then, of course, they felt bad about telling him something that might not be true, so decided to do something about it. They phoned the station for special permission to drive him to Gatwick airport.

"The tension in the car was unbearable - particularly when they got lost on the way and had to ask directions from a passer-by!"

Security staff at the airport waved the lad and his police escort through to the runway, where his plane was waiting ready to take off.

A great cheer went up from the other passengers as he was reunited with his family, and minutes later he was in the air and on his way to America - a great start to 1992 thanks to two big-hearted Hackney coppers!

HC

3.1.92



Martin Calvert, who is serving 18 months in jail after retaliating against two men who chased him and attacked him at a garage

CASE — 2

THE CASE of Martin Calvert, who is serving 18 months on an assault charge, may seem like a minor one compared to those in which people have served a dozen or more years before winning their freedom.

But it is regarded by Mr Calvert's supporters as significant in that it is the latest case in which a black person who has defended himself in a racist incident has ended up being jailed.

Mr Calvert, aged 29, a life-guard at the Britannia Leisure Centre in Hackney, east London, was driving in the area in October 1990 when two men on a motorcycle pulled up alongside him.

Mr Calvert says he pulled back to allow them through, although they may have thought he was trying to block their way. He was punched in the eye by one of the men who called him a "fucking Paki."

Mr Calvert, who has no previous convictions and is a small man, drove away when one of the men tried to grab him by the neck. They drove after him and caught up with him when he stopped in a garage two miles away.

One took out a chain and started shouting abuse. Mr Calvert had with him a small sculpting knife which he used for making wooden sculptures as part of his stud-

ies at a local college. There was a fight, witnessed by people at the garage, in the course of which Mr Calvert wounded the men, one of them seriously, with his knife. He says that he only struck out in self-defence.

He was arrested, charged with actual bodily harm, convicted at the Inner London Crown Court last August and jailed for 18 months.

Hackney council sacked him from his job the following month but he has since appealed against this and been reinstated.

On home leave last month, Mr Calvert said: "All I was doing was going about my business when it happened. I was just trying to defend myself."

"Even though the two men admitted attacking me in court, it was me that was jailed."

Mr Calvert, who is in Send prison, is appealing against his sentence.

In a similar case last year, Brian Moore, a black television presenter, aged 26, was attacked by a group of racists in Norwich who pelted him and his friends with missiles and called them "niggers, coons and baboons."

He was jailed for two years for retaliating, before winning his appeal against sentence when the Court of Appeal decided that it was wrong that the victim of an attack should be jailed for the same time as someone who had instigated it.

GUARDIAN 4.1.92

Some complaints are inevitable, he says

Force praised by police chief

COMPLAINTS against the police were inevitable, a top Hackney cop admitted this week, because of the nature of the work.

But when put in context with the huge number of dealings the police have with the public, the proportion of complaints is very few, said Supt David Hynes.

He was praising the efforts of officers at Hackney and City Road police stations during 1991.

A detailed breakdown showed officers had 158,377 contacts with the public during the year.

by RUSS LAWRENCE

The number of people arrested in 1991 by Hackney and City Road stations was 9,127, with 10,000 reported traffic offenders.

Police officers stopped and searched 5,500 people, dealt with approximately 20,000 reported crimes, and responded to nearly 59,000 emergency and other calls from the public.

In addition, over 54,750 people called at the two police stations seeking advice and assistance. Often these were in diffi-

cult or confrontational situations," he said.

"This high workload was achieved with only 45 complaints, but with over 100 letters of thanks and appreciation.

"The very nature of police work makes some complaints inevitable, but naturally we would like to give 100-per cent customer satisfaction.

"When the number of complaints are put in context with the amount of work undertaken by the police, Hackney's public can be confident they are receiving the very highest quality of service from dedicated hard-working and professional officers," he concluded.

Mini-police station for drugs heartland

HACKNEY'S notorious Front Line will soon be no more after it was revealed that a mini-police station is to open slap-bang in the middle of the drug dealers' haunts in Sandringham Road.

And gangsters at the borough's other open-air drugs market, around the Haggerston Estate, will also have the frighteners put on them - a police station is to open in Haggerston Road as well.

The move marks the latest skirmish in a continuing battle to clean up the borough.

Both areas have been plagued by dealers selling everything from crack and heroin to cannabis.

Sandringham Road, in particular, has a reputation as a cocaine kashbah and is known as the borough's Front Line. It became a flashpoint for trouble during the London-wide riots in the 1980s, with residents complaining it was virtually a no-go area for police.

Hackney Council chiefs have given the go-ahead for a disused housing office near the junction with Amhurst Road to be converted into the mini-police station, rent free, and work will begin within weeks.

Stoke Newington Supt Douglas West said: "We will be very close to the centre of things there and will certainly make a significant difference to the area.

"It would be a brave man to say this will solve the drugs problem for ever, but the presence of a police base there will be a great deterrent to drug dealing."

He warned that police would take any action necessary to stop evicted drug dealers setting up elsewhere in the borough.

HC 10.1.92

Police issue air gun alert



● Real or fake - can you tell which gun is the real one? Pc Andy Conway with the .22 air pistol (left) and a Smith and Wesson handgun. PICTURE BY CHRIS WOOD.

CITY Road cops are warning teenagers not to take air pistols out on the street - in case the weapons are mistaken for real handguns.

Their plea follows the controversy stirred up after Ian Bennett was shot dead by police in Ralstrick, Yorkshire, as he waved a fake rifle.

Now City Road officers are urging mums and dads not to buy air pistols as presents for youngsters after Broadway Market home beat bobby Andy Conway arrested a 15-year-old boy for having a frighteningly real-looking gun on the street.

"The gun frightened the life out of me and without close examination I couldn't tell whether it was real or not. It was hidden under his jacket," said Pc Conway.

"This air pistol was particularly realistic as it was a revolving weapon very similar to a five-barrelled shotgun which means you could pump out pellets without having to stop to reload after each shot."

And Chief Inspector John Grundy said: "If faced with a gun, it's often impossible for a police officer to know whether it's real or fake and he has to make a split-second decision."

Pc Conway added: "A lot of youngsters got air pistols as Christmas presents. But we would encourage parents not to buy them as gifts."

● Police are still deciding whether to prosecute the 15-year-old boy stopped by Pc Conway for possessing an air pistol while under-age, you have to be 17 to have one.

Man shot after leaving nightclub

A JAMAICAN who was shot down in a hail of bullets in Dalston on Monday may have been the victim of a Yardie-style, drug-related knee-capping, police suspect.

Sharm Lee nearly died in intensive care at Homerton Hospital after a bullet which passed straight through his knee sparked off circulation and breathing problems. He is now recovering.

The 21-year-old, who was staying with relatives on the Holly Street estate, was shot near Lesty's club on Alvington Crescent, off Shackwell Lane, which has been raided for drugs.

Mr Lee, a parks and markets special constable in Kingston, Jamaica, was shot at least five times in the early hours of Monday. He told police he saw a man running away carrying a silver revolver.

Det Insp Andy Hewett, of Stoke Newington CID, said: "It does have sinister overtones and there is definitely a drugs-dealing aspect. It may have been a dispute between people

dealing in drugs."

One nearby resident, who asked not to be named, claimed in recent weeks there had been a machete attack near the club and two other incidents of guns being fired.

"This shooting is not an isolated incident and the police are doing nothing. We can live with the club noise and the dealing, but when bullets start flying we are frightened and we want action taken," he said.

But Det Insp Hewett retorted: "There is grave concern this madman is spraying bullets around the street. We will not allow this level of lawlessness, we will not allow it to become a Wild West zone and it will be trampled on."

Police should review their priorities

ALTHOUGH the Gazette's front-page story headlined "Hero Cops Save Boy's Disney Trip" (January 3) makes interesting reading, it raises the question of whether this was a proper use of police resources.

The crime rate in the borough is, regrettably, rising all the time. I have been the victim of two mugging attacks in the street of Clapton in the last four months and some two years ago my flat was burgled. The police have not been successful in apprehending those responsible for any of these offences.

On a much more serious level, those responsible for the murder of the sub-postmaster have not been arrested and are still free to commit the same sort of offence again.

It's an appalling state of affairs that with all the undetected crime taking place that the police decide that acting as a glorified taxi service takes priority. The community charge payers of this borough do not expect their hard-earned money to be squandered by the police in providing this sort of service: they expect their money to be applied towards the prevention of crime and the apprehension of those responsible for it.

Of course, one acknowledges the sentiments which motivated the police to take the boy in question to the airport. But what would have happened if he had missed that flight? I venture to suggest that the airline would have readily agreed to put him on the next available flight and at most he would have arrived at his holiday destination a day late. Does the risk of a boy missing a day of his holiday justify taking two police officers away from their crime-fighting duties for an

entire shift? I would suggest not.

It seems to me that it is about time that senior management at Hackney Police Station reviewed their priorities and started putting their officers back on the beat in order to act as some sort of deterrent against the type of crime which is reported all too frequently in the Gazette. Then perhaps our old people, the frail, the disabled and the vulnerable will once again feel safe to walk through the streets of our borough without let or hindrance. - NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

Police to steal the headlines!

EVERY household in Hackney faces a dawn swoop from the boys (and girls) in blue over the next few months.

But don't worry about your breakfast being spoiled while you help the police with their inquiries, they're not popping round in person.

This is all about the Old Bill trying to improve its image and get its crimebusting message bursting out of the cornflakes.

For Hackney and Stoke Newington police divisions are linking up to produce their very own "right riveting" newspaper full of news and views about what they're up to.

The freebie paper, to be called "The Hackney Beat", will plod through thousands of letter boxes once every three months from March onwards.

Chief Insp David Hudson, of Stoke Newington police, said: "It'll have issues like crime prevention, stories about our work, and things like 'meet your local bobby'. It'll be informative but not too heavy."

The thinking behind the paper, similar to ones in other London areas, was to help the force get its message over directly to the public, he explained. "We can always look at improving our image and how it's presented to the public."

Up to 180,000 people could read the paper if the distribution goes well - though local villains are more likely to read about who's been nabbed than get many tips about undercover operations going on in the borough.

Police to tape kerb-crawlers on video

VICE cops are unleashing a new weapon on kerb-crawlers in their latest move to clean up the notorious Amhurst Park red-light area of Stamford Hill.

A pair of officers are now touring the area in an unmarked police car secretly recording punters on video ready to use the evidence against them in court.

Police chiefs hope the fear of being caught on video will scare off the kerb-crawlers and force the prostitutes away from Amhurst Park and surrounding roads as residents have long been demanding.

Each month, the police arrest about 30 to 40 men for kerb-crawling around Amhurst Park and Queen's Drive, and caution twice as many.

The move follows last year's introduction of a "porta-nick"

mobile police station in the area which succeeded in driving away the vice girls for a few weeks. And Tory Parliamentary hopeful Cole Manson is still pressing for "toleration zones" to be set up away from residential areas.

Chief Insp David Hudson, of Stoke Newington police, said: "It's an unmarked police car which will follow kerb-crawlers around and monitor their activities."

"When we feel we have enough evidence on video, we will pull them in and charge them. We are always looking at different ways of tackling the vice problem. We hope that the deterrent effect of being on camera will be enough to reduce the kerb-crawling," he added. Under a two-week pilot scheme, the video car is out and about for a couple of days a week but, if all goes well, they'll use it seven days a week.

HC 17.1.92

'GUN' IN CAR SPARKS VIP RED ALERT

Child's pistol leads to security drama

THE bigwig Lord in charge of the high-powered Royal Commission on Criminal Justice went out on patrol with Hackney coppers and took part in a dramatic security alert after a report that a gunman had been spotted – only to find a bemused dad and his son's toy pistol!

And the drama certainly achieved Hackney top cops' aim of a day out in a police car on the borough's tough streets. It was an eye-opener for chair Lord Runciman and commission colleague Professor Michael Zander.

Hackney police's distinguished new recruits – helping to draw up a new study of Britain's criminal justice system – spent Tuesday getting a gritty taste of grass-roots police work.

Just after 3.30pm, the pair from the commission were out on patrol in separate police cars when coppers got an anonymous tip-off that a gunman had been seen in Orsmman Road, Hoxton.

Blue lights flashing and car sirens screaming, the lord and the professor sped to the scene and were given a chilling insight into how a police officer feels when any second he could be looking down the barrel of a gun.

Armed cops and patrol cars cordoned off the road and waited for someone to come back to the Mercedes car which had the gun lying on the back shelf.

by CAROL DYCE

They pounced on a man who came out of a nearby building and strolled back to the car. But he hastily explained that it was just a kid's toy gun!

The drama comes hard on the heels of the controversy stirred up over fake guns being mistaken for real weapons after Ian Bennett was shot dead by police in Rastick, Yorkshire, as he waved a fake rifle.

"It showed them that a police officer just never knows what he is going to face when he gets a call about a gunman," said Chief Insp Ken Day of Hackney police station.

"Lord Runciman's patrol car sped to the scene, although it didn't actually go into the road, which was already cordoned off.

"We wanted to show them what real police work was like, and also the difficulty of collecting evidence with the legislation as it stands now."

Police work includes helping where we can

I FEEL I had to write in answer to last week's letter relating to the Gazette's front page story on January 3 headlined "Hero Cops Save Boys Disney Trip", because I am the police officer who drove the young lad to Gatwick Airport.

Obviously, the writer of the letter has no idea of what police work is all about. Not only are we here to detect crime and arrest offenders, we are also here to help and serve the public in any way we can.

I have been a police officer "on the beat" in Hackney Division for six years and I have arrested my fair share of burglars, robbers etc. Unfortunately, the crime rate is rising, but Gazette readers should know it has not risen in Hackney as much as London as a whole and we are doing everything we can to reduce it.

We are also having great success in clearing up a large number of burglaries and robberies as a result of an ongoing operation to detect these type of offences, and we will do all we can to ensure this success continues.

Myself and my colleagues were not away for the entire shift – we were only absent for approximately two hours. It was a quiet Saturday morning and no crimes were reported during the period we were away. I feel we were justified in taking this young lad to Gatwick and if the same sort of thing occurred again, I would do exactly the same. The young lad had been saving for years for the holiday of a lifetime which he would have definitely missed as flights to America were fully booked up for the next two weeks.

He and his family were extremely grateful for our co-operation and couldn't thank us enough. Police are called upon to deal with every sort of situation and get criticised regularly, but unfortunately the public seldom hear about the good work we do.

Because of this, I feel it was a shame the writer of the letter decided it was not something the police should have dealt with. If it had been a member of his or her family, would he or she feel the same way? It was very satisfying for myself and my colleague to be able to assist the boy and I feel it was just another part of my job, which I was happy to do.

I am proud to be able to serve the people of Hackney and will continue to do my best to help them by whatever means I can. – PC P. MOCKETT, HACKNEY POLICE STATION.

Teenager damaged dead Pc's memorial

A TEENAGED painter and decorator was found guilty of vandalising the memorial to murdered policeman Larry Brown and given three months' youth custody at Old Street Magistrates' Court.

Patrick Dickson, 17, of Scriven Court, Haggerston, denied the charge but was found to have pulled over the memorial which was worth an estimated £1,500.

At an earlier court appearance, his counsel, Martin Lewis, revealed that it was costing more than £1,000 a day to keep the teenager in a remand centre while he awaited trial for damaging the memorial at Orwell Court, off Pownall Road, Haggerston.

Pc Brown was blasted to death with a shotgun by Mark Gaynor, who subsequently killed himself while in jail.

Murder trial delayed

A HUSBAND due to face trial this month for the murder of his wife at Stoke Newington police station has been granted a two-month adjournment so that he can prepare his defence.

The decision to delay the case was taken reluctantly by Old Bailey Judge Robert Lyberty, QC, who was told that the hearing had been postponed previously when the accused sacked his QC and solicitor.

March 2 was fixed as the date when Jayanti Patel, 33, faces a jury.

Patel, unemployed, of Hindic House, Arcola Street, Dalston, is accused of murdering his 21-year-old wife Vandana in the domestic violence unit at the police station on April 29 last year.

The couple were meeting to try and sort out marriage problems when Mrs Patel suffered a fatal stab wound.

A new team of lawyers acting for Patel said they needed further time to interview a number of potential defence witnesses and prepare a case for the jury.

Fed-up estate tenants say they're at mercy of burglars and muggers

Crime spiral leads to vigilante threat

VIGILANTE patrols could be set up on a crime-plagued estate by tenants fed-up with being left to the mercy of burglars and muggers.

And residents of King's Crescent Estate, in Queen's Drive, Finsbury Park, are also threatening a rent strike unless security is tightened up and essential repairs carried out.

The tenants say they live in fear after a sky-high increase in burglaries, easily carried out because many of the corridors have no lighting.

One 72-year-old widow living alone on the 18th floor of a tower block is regularly plunged into darkness as vandals break into the communal fusebox outside her flat. Her worried family fear she may be seriously injured the next time it happens if she falls over in the dark.

Tenants held an emergency meeting to discuss the situation, and of the 180 people who turned up 50 had been the victims of burglary or attempted burglary in the past two months.

Liz Khan, from the estate tenants' association, said: "The whole estate is

heaven for burglars, because it is so easy to kick down doors and prise open windows.

"Hackney Council promised us they would replace them four years ago, but nothing has been done.

"We want the communal entrances to be properly secured with intercoms, and the lighting in the corridors replaced and made vandal-proof.

"People are frightened to live here, and if necessary we will patrol the estate ourselves and set up our own security. There is also a lot of support

for a rent strike, and we are looking into the possibility of taking named council officials to court to force them to carry out repairs."

A spokesperson for Hackney Council said: "We don't recall any promise being made to that level to tenants on the estate. New doors and windows would not be a solution to this problem of burglaries, but we do want to improve the lighting.

"Representatives from the council together with the police will be meeting with the tenants' association to discuss security on the estate."

HG
24-1-92

John Watkins was awarded £800 for false imprisonment, £2,000 exemplary damages and £2,000 for an assault in a police van when he was forced into a seat by Detective Inspector (now Chief Inspector) Ian Hosking and an unidentified police officer grabbed his genitals and threatened to rip them off.

Like his brother, he was detained briefly at Stoke Newington police station and subjected to strip searching, which involved anal examinations.

The police, who were ordered to pay costs on the highest scale, claimed the brothers, who work in the family metal-work engineering business in Hackney, east London, had to be restrained when they struggled. They said only reasonable force had been used and claimed they were justified in detaining them. They denied malicious prosecution.

Afterwards, John Watkins said: "I'm delighted, totally relieved. It took a lot longer than I thought it would to get here, but I never, at any time, thought of dropping it or letting the matter rest.

"We were plainly innocent of any sort of crime and it has been proved twice by juries. What a shame that a few bad apples have spoiled the reputation of the majority of good, hard-working and honest police officers."

His brother, Michael, said: "It was totally outrageous behaviour by the police."

Lawyers for the Metropolitan Police would not comment.

Award for two in strip search

TWO brothers arrested on their way home from work and subjected to strip searches, were yesterday awarded a total of £26,800 damages against the Metropolitan Police by a High Court jury.

Michael Watkins, aged 27, of Welwyn Garden City, Herts, and his brother John, aged 26, of Hatfield, Herts, had sued over what their lawyer described as a degrading and humiliating ordeal.

A charge of possessing cannabis was brought against Michael Watkins after the arrest in February 1987, but he was later acquitted at Snaresbrook crown court.

Yesterday he was awarded £2,000 for false imprisonment, including assault, £10,000 for malicious prosecution and £10,000 exemplary damages.

He had told Mr Justice Drake and the jury that he was framed after PC Simon Cooke alleged he had dropped two small plastic bags containing a tiny amount of cannabis when he was arrested. He said he had never smoked cannabis and gave up cigarettes in 1984.

In its verdict, at the end of a five-day hearing, the jury made a specific finding that he did not drop any drugs. PC Cooke has since had to resign from the force over a drink-driving offence.

GUARDIAN

25.1.92

Incompetent police officers face dismissal

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

ANUAL reports on all serving police officers are to be compiled with a view to weeding out inefficient or lazy officers, according to Home Office sources. At present only corrupt officers can be dismissed.

A Home Office circular was sent to all forces in England and Wales last month, explaining that individual reports on all officers, carried out by their immediate superiors, must be made annually. Some forces already compile such reports.

The reports are intended to highlight the positive achievements of an officer as much as to scrutinise the negative. "The underlying aim of the staff appraisal process is to encourage and achieve the best possible performance from individual police officers," the circular says.

The officer will be shown his or her report and asked to countersign it. Two officers will be asked to sign the assessment, to avoid the possibility of one officer having a grudge against a junior.

The impetus behind the circular is to regularise the annual report system so that officers regard it as routine.

"Some officers feel it's more macho just to bark out instructions," said a Home Office source. "Others feel it's demeaning to have to report on their colleagues."

For some time there has been a feeling within the Home Office, the Police Inspectorate and among some senior police officers that there is no mechanism for easing out unwanted officers.

To address this problem and seek a form of "administrative dismissal", a working party, consisting of representatives of

the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Superintendents' Association, the Police Federation, the Police Staff College, and other relevant bodies was set up last year. It is due to report back in March. Its remit is to consider how dismissals should take place.

Officers will be assessed on a scale of one to seven under such headings as Communication and Relationships with Others, Conduct and Standards, Knowledge and Investigation. Grade Seven officers will be regarded as outstanding, Grade One will represent the bottom 2 per cent of the force.

Officers should have free access to their files, says the circular. "The general principle of openness" should underlie the system.

It is not yet clear when the reports will be carried out, but it is likely that they will be staggered. One possibility would be for a sub-division of a police force to be assessed in, say, April, another the following month, and so on. A sergeant will assess a constable, an inspector will assess a sergeant and so on up to deputy chief constable level.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has endorsed the circular as have many elements in the police force, who want to get rid of "dead wood." However, there is likely to be resistance from rank-and-file officers concerned at the possibility of colleagues being victimised. There was indignation within the Police Federation over plans to "weed out" long-term sick officers last year.

At present, officers in awkward cases are often offered early retirement on health grounds rather than be subjected to dismissal proceedings. A small number of officers who have been violent or dishonest are routinely sacked.

GUARDIAN 29.1.92

Police face corruption allegations

NINE POLICE officers from one of the most controversial London police divisions are the focus of an investigation into widespread allegations of corruption, writes Terry Kirby.

The allegations have been made by several people convicted or charged with drug offences.

The Metropolitan Police said yesterday that eight officers had been moved to other stations from Stoke Newington police station in north-east London during an inquiry by the force's complaints investigation bureau. A ninth officer facing other charges, has been suspended from duty.

The allegations include soliciting bribes, planting drugs and encouraging drug dealing over the past two years. Most of the allegations have been made since November and the matter was referred to the Police Complaints Authority in the past few weeks.

A common allegation is that officers suggested to suspected drug dealers that they give large sums of money to them when arrested so that the total in their possession when charged was lowered.

A local solicitor said: "We have a number of clients who have been convicted and are considering whether to make complaints against these officers. There is a clear frequency with which the same names of officers and the same allegations are surfacing." At least two of those making allegations are convicted "crack" dealers.

The officers were members of a drugs squad trying to tackle the growing crack problem in the multi-racial inner-city area. Most are detective constables or trainee detective constables.

The investigation is being conducted by Det Supt Ian Russell, of Complaints Investigation Bureau and supervised by William McCall, of the complaints authority. The Metropolitan Police said the eight transferred officers would continue with similar duties during the inquiry.

The ninth officer appeared in court in November, charged with theft and VAT offences.

■ Two Belfast students maliciously prosecuted after wrongful arrests, assault and false detention in a London police cell were awarded £18,000 damages at Wood Green County Court, north London. Shorna Newcombe, 23, was awarded £8,000 and Sean Napier, 24, £10,000.

IND. 30.1.92

Police suspected of drugs dealing

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

EIGHT Metropolitan police officers based at a north London police station have been moved to new duties following allegations of police involvement in planting and dealing in drugs.

A further officer from the same station, now suspended on other matters and facing charges, has been investigated over allegations that he had been making as much as £2,000 a week from drugs. A senior member of Scotland Yard's anti-corruption squad has told a magistrate's court during this officer's bail application that he faced serious drugs inquiries.

Further allegations involving other officers attached to this station, apart from these nine, suggest that there has been fabrication of evidence and planting of drugs.

There has been an anti-corruption investigation, named Operation Jackpot and led by Detective Superintendent Ian Russell, into Stoke Newington police station, north London, since last year. It coincides with allegations by a woman drugs dealer based in the "front line" area of Sandringham Road that police officers were supplying her with drugs which they had taken off drug users and dealers in the area. The woman is due to stand trial later this year.

Another woman, now serving a sentence for drugs offences, has also told police investigators that she had drugs planted on her by police officers. A shake-up of the station is now underway.

According to allegations made to the Guardian, officers have:

- offered immunity from prosecution to drug dealers in exchange for money;

- given protection to drug dealers who were working on their behalf;

- charged drug users with possessing smaller amounts of drugs than they were arrested with;

- offered drugs as a reward to potential witnesses in a murder inquiry;

- planted drugs in the car of a man and fabricated evidence in an unsuccessful attempt to convict him.

The allegations come at the same time as concern has been expressed about other police stations in the area, where officers have been accused of violence and fabrication of evidence.

The claims also come when the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police has been making strenuous efforts through Scotland Yard's Plus programme to gain the respect and cooperation of the community.

Amongst the officers moved are those who are the subject of civil proceedings for wrongful arrest and false imprisonment and others who face investigation by the Police Complaints Authority. The investigation is being carried out by Scotland Yard's anti-corruption branch, which is based at Tintagel House on the Albert Embankment. The Met has faced a number of inquiries over the years into individual squads, including the obscene publications squad, the drugs squad and the robbery squad.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "As a result of an internal investigation following allegations made by people convicted for drug dealing offences, eight officers from the CID at Stoke Newington are to be transferred today to other stations until an inquiry has been completed. None of the officers has been suspended."

Details, page 2

GUARDIAN 31.1.92

Disquiet dogs community police station

Duncan Campbell on the accusations levelled against a north London police station

THE decision to move eight officers from Stoke Newington police station in north London comes at a time when local legal groups, lawyers and members of the community have expressed disquiet about the station.

The allegations have been circulating for more than a year and are being investigated by Scotland Yard's anti-corruption squad as part of Operation Jackpot.

There are three main allegations about officers who have worked at the station and it is not suggested that these allegations relate to the eight officers who have been moved. The allegations are: that officers have been involved in reselling drugs seized on the streets; that officers have fabricated evidence to win convictions; that officers have beaten up suspects.

One of the main allegations centres on a dealer who was arrested last year. She has told police investigators that she was supplied with drugs by police officers and paid them the profits of her dealing. She cannot be named because she is due to appear for trial.

A friend of the woman, who also has convictions for theft and drugs offences, claims that officers planted drugs on her. She claims that the amount of drugs weighed in front of her by the officers was larger than that she was charged with.

She claims she got into trouble with the officers after seeing two of them with her friend, the local dealer, and after being offered an opportunity to deal on their behalf.

"I told her she was wrong to be dealing with them and said I didn't want to have anything to do with them," says the woman, who is now in prison. "She said she had been arrested 'on the line' (Sandringham Road) for ganga possession. She said one of them was in charge of everything and would protect me."

During the raid after which she was charged, she says one detective emerged with a plastic carrier bag containing envelopes, of the type normally used for selling drugs, with drugs in them.

"I said: It's not me. One of them said: Who's going to believe you, addict?"

Last August she was convicted and jailed. The judge was angered by her accusations against police officers and said he hoped her conscience would

trouble her. Another case goes back to 1989 when a local man was arrested. He says he was beaten up in a van by officers, having earlier been pointed out by another officer.

He says: "They told me that I didn't get enough sentence the last time."

After being taken to the station he was taken to his car which he says he had not used for almost a year. In the car, he says, two officers reached in the glove compartment. They then showed him a matchbox containing cocaine and said they had found it there. He was arrested and taken to the station.

He was charged but the case collapsed when the prosecution announced that the officer alleged to have planted the drugs was too ill to appear and give evidence.

The man is now suing for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, and assault.

In July last year two young men were stopped in the street in Hackney. They were questioned by two plain clothes officers about a murder that had taken place locally. According to the two young men, one officer said: "If you help us we'll give you drugs. There's a £5,000 reward for information and we'll drop your robbery charges."

The following day the two young men were arrested and taken to the police station. There they were told that the police believed they had been acting as look-outs for the murderer. No charges were ever brought against them.

A further case involving officers at Stoke Newington is the subject of a civil action for assault, false imprisonment, and malicious prosecution. It results from the prosecution of two young men for an alleged burglary in July 1990. Both were cleared by a jury after saying that the officers had fabricated the evidence against them. Before giving evidence, two officers in the case asked to be cautioned.

Yesterday Graham Smith, secretary of the Hackney Community Defence Association, which campaigns on behalf of people who claim to have been wrongly convicted or charged, said: "It is not good enough for Scotland Yard to move police officers to another division. There should be a full, independent public inquiry." He said that people who had protested their innocence but been convicted in cases involving the officers should have their cases reviewed.

The area already has an unwelcome reputation for policing. Seven officers from City Road police station were dismissed from the force last year after the violent beating up of Gary Stretch, a window cleaner, in The Limes pub in the East End.



Stoke Newington police station . . . eight officers have been transferred, but public disquiet continues

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN SMITH

GUARDIAN 31.1.92

BRIBES PROBE POLICE MOVED

A PROBE into alleged drug-dealing and bribery involving eight Stoke Newington policemen has been launched in the same week as two brothers won substantial damages after being subjected to strip searches at the station.

Attempts to wipe out the tarnished past history of the police station suffered a setback as the eight officers were transferred to other

Officers transfer to other stations

stations while a top-level investigation is carried out by Scotland Yard's own internal investigation department.

It follows complaints made over the last few weeks by several people, some of them convicted crack dealers and others accused of drug offences.

None of the officers involved is above the rank of sergeant. Some are detectives and some are uniformed officers.

A ninth detective, who has been suspended, appeared in court in November charged with theft and

offences involving VAT.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "As a result of an internal investigation, following allegations made by people convicted of drug-dealing offences, eight officers from Stoke Newington are to be transferred to other stations until an inquiry has been completed."

"None of the officers has been suspended, and they will continue to carry out their normal duties."

It comes just days after two brothers were awarded a total of £26,800 in the High Court against the Metropolitan Police after they were arrested on the way home from their work at a metalwork

engineering firm in Hackney.

They were taken to Stoke Newington police station by officers from the Tactical Support Group. Once there, they were strip-searched and forced to undergo what their lawyer described as "a degrading and humiliating ordeal."

A charge of possessing cannabis was brought against Michael Watkins, 27, after the arrest in 1987, but he was later acquitted at Southwark Crown Court.

He was awarded £2,000 for false imprisonment, including assault, £10,000 for malicious prosecution, and £10,000 exemplary damages at the High Court after the hearing

which lasted five days.

His brother John, 26, was awarded £800 for false imprisonment, including assault, £2,000 exemplary damages and £2,000 for an assault in a police van.

The latest incidents can only tarnish the image of the £9 million "supermick," London's largest purpose-built police station. The station was opened in July 1990 by Met Police Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert.

The old station had a history of controversy, including the infamous death of Colin Roach.

Chief Supt Roy Clark, who is in charge at Stoke Newington, was unavailable for comment as the Gazette went to press yesterday (Thursday) morning.

Borough to be carved up into new police sectors

AREAS of Hackney are to become mini-constabularies, each with its own police force, under radical new plans for sector policing.

Upholding law and order will undergo a revolution when the change covering the whole of the Metropolitan Police area is introduced next year, Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group was told at its meeting last week.

The two police divisions which presently cover the borough will be divided up into small

sectors, each with its own inspector and a team of officers who will be responsible for round-the-clock policing of their designated patch.

"It is the biggest change in the style of policing in over 100 years because it will replace the shift system," said Insp Howard Back, from Hackney police.

"It won't increase the manpower, but it is hoped it will make better use of what we already have."

Scotland Yard want to replace the outdated shift system. They say the problem with police

patrolling throughout a division is that local people find it difficult to identify with any group of officers.

And it is wasteful of manpower because a quarter of officers are on duty at times like the early morning when fewer police are needed.

Also the rigid shift pattern means police can't react to demands when large numbers are desperately needed at short notice.

"Sector policing will benefit the local community because it will make the police more accountable," added Insp Back.

"Every day the local community will be

able to see the same team of officers policing their patch and they will be able to discuss concerns and problems with the inspector for that sector, who in a sense is their chief constable. In turn, he will be able to liaise at local level with the various agencies."

Police in both Hackney's divisions are still drawing up their proposals for sector boundaries. They have to ensure that they have sufficient officers to cover a sector 24 hours a day and provide emergency cover for other sectors while taking into account officers' leave, sickness, court appearances and training.



© This lethal machete held by Supt Gary Miller was one of the weapons handed in during City Road nick's knives amnesty.

**Blades
amnesty
brings in
a slice
of life**

MORE than 20 knives, including a large, lethal-looking machete, were "binned" during an amnesty at City Road police station aimed at persuading young people to stop carrying weapons.

Scotland Yard's campaign follows the stabbing of East End copper Jim Morrison, based at Lemon Street nick, who was knifed to death while trying to grab a bag thief in central London.

During the London-wide six-week Bin Your Blade drive, as well as the 20 knives handed in at City Road, three knives and a meat cleaver were binned at Stoke Newington nick and another three knives and a machete at Hackney police station.

And this week City Road's top cop, Supt Gary Miller, appealed to parents to watch out for their kids carrying knives.

"They think it is just a bit of brava-

Crack dealers crop up in ever-increasing numbers

HACKNEY has become the so-called crack capital of London as drugs barons move in to cream off easy profits from addicts and set up far-reaching supply lines.

Up to a quarter of all crack seizures and arrests within London take place on the borough's streets, worrying new police figures released exclusively to the Gazette reveal.

Drugs officers grabbed nearly twice as much crack last year as in 1990 and made virtually double the number of arrests for possession and dealing.

But while there are headline-catching successes, like the raid on a crack "factory" in a fortified council flat last January, officers admit they're only seeing "the tip of the iceberg" as dealers disappear into safe houses.

Drugs officers made more than 100 separate seizures of crack and more than 100 related arrests in east London last year, up from about 60 in 1990, and the vast majority took place in Hackney where there were more than 400 crack seizures in London.

Insp Arthur Schafer, head of the recently formed 22-strong Street

Offences Drugs Unit based at Stoke Newington station, admitted: "There's been a large increase and the greater proportion was within the borough boundaries."

"Crack is the drug of the day, and for Stoke Newington there's a particular problem. It's not to say residents are dealers or takers, people come here because they know where the supply is," he explained.

Attracted

Attracted by the prospect of easy profits by selling a small rock of crack for £30 a time, more and more people are becoming dealers, mostly as individuals or in small groups rather than in organised syndicates.

"It's a continuous battle and it's difficult to know whether we are touching 'the iceberg.' For example, open dealing in Sandringham Road has declined dramatically, but this has driven them underground - making our job more difficult," added Insp Schafer.

He appealed for anyone who knew or suspected anyone of dealing to ring the unit's confidential hotline on 071 488 7164.

do but carrying knives can end up having tragic consequences for them and other people," he said.

"We ask parents to be on their guard against young people carrying knives. And we repeat that no one should go out on to the street carrying these weapons."

The arsenal of weapons binned at City Road, including the 18-inch machete and deadly flick-knives, will now be destroyed.

HG 31.1.92

Stoke Newington police are fighting crack crime against a background of rumours and corruption claims.

CAROLINE DAVIES reports

THE LARGE, open-plan reception at London's biggest purpose-built police station is separated from the street by huge glass windows.

You can see straight through into the new £9 million Stoke Newington station — and you're meant to.

"We are wide open, completely on view. And that is deliberate," says Chief Superintendent Roy Clark, who is running one of the toughest police divisions in Britain.

The idea was to exorcise the ghosts — the police call them myths — of alleged brutality, suspicious deaths and corruption that haunted the previous station, now demolished, on the same site.

But despite designer planning and all the psychology attached, Stoke Newington is once more in danger of being tainted.

Eight officers — from both CID and uniform — have just been moved to other stations until an inquiry has been completed pending inquiries into allegations that police planted, dealt in and resold illegal drugs.

The relocation of the eight, following the commencement of an internal inquiry, is controversial and has split opinion within the force.

Any sign of weakness is dangerous in an area already boiling with anti-police sentiment and where they stage annual torch-lit marches to commemorate the deaths of alleged victims of police violence.

Allegations have been made against police officers by persons including self-confessed or convicted crack dealers following the arrest of one woman currently awaiting trial.

The charges against police are being investigated by Detective Sergeant Ian Russell under the anti-corruption Operation Jackpot. The inquiry has been unning since November and the officers were relocated on Wednesday, but no one has been suspended.

The inquiry's decision to move the men during the inquiry must have come as a blow to Chief Supt Clark, high-flying career man who at 44 looks set to become Commander soon.

Attempting to hold together a division in an area te with drugs, prostitution and racial tension, it was the last thing he needed.

No matter the eventual outcome of the inquiry, the very fact there should have been a need for one reflects this force once again with a sinister reputation it is as desperately trying to shed.

The drugs allegations could contaminate a force trying to beat the largest dealer problem in London. Crack can be found in abundance, and dealers from all over London congregate on Sandringham Road to sell their wares. "Until five or six years ago Sandringham was the best part of If-a-mile of end-to-end problem," said Chief Supt Clark.

"Over the years, because of good police work, it has been eroded so it now exists as a bit of pavement 50 yards long. They stand round on the pavement, they come from all over London and they sell crack. They have in their hands y bits of silver foil with all of rocks of crack. They are not going to

made against police

Above: the new Stoke Newington police station, where the vast plate glass windows symbolise a determination to exorcise the myths. Left: Trevor Monerville, who allegedly suffered a clot on the brain while in police custody. Far left: Colin Roach, who committed suicide at the old station



Drugs, denials and the ghosts who won't go away



stand on the pavement with a huge tray with 60 rolls of crack and a till in front of them, so they keep the tiny rocks in their hands. Then, when they see a huge great white man coming at them, they know it's a cop, and they just drop the foil on to the ground. You can't get within 100 yards of them without being spotted.

"Sandringham Road has a folklore memory for drugs. If you want a prostitute you know to go to Amherst Road. If you want drugs you go to Sandringham Road. What we have to do is wipe out that folk memory."

"That is extremely difficult when the very officers charged with doing so find themselves at the centre of a

scandal. They have now changed tactics, increasing uniform deterrent and cutting down undercover CID operations. That is not, the Chief Supt stresses, a result of Operation Jackpot.

"It is important that these allegations are put into perspective. They have been made by people who are, on the whole, self-confessed dealers in drugs.

"They have been made against the very group of officers tasked to deal with them. Clearly they are serious allegations and must be fully investigated. But at the moment they are only allegations and until the inquiry is complete will remain so. It could well be they will be exonerated at the end of the day."

The Hackney Community Defence Association, which campaigns on behalf of people wrongly charged, is calling for a public inquiry.

Other cases involving the old Stoke Newington station

include Colin Roach, who committed suicide there and Trevor Monerville, who suffered an alleged clot on the brain while in police custody.

The storming of the station by furious Kurds shouting accusations of brutality, the recent event where an Asian man managed to stab his wife to death inside the station and at least 10 cases last year where people are pressing for wrongful imprisonment compensation add more fuel to the controversy.

Chief Supt Clark sighs. "Myths, that's what they are. In none of these cases have the police been found to have had any major fault. But because of the sort of police involvement we have here, there have been some significant events. They are now ingrained in the memories of the people and the media who forget the facts of those cases.

"There are those who will

add these recent allegations to a long and ill founded list of confirmed mythical incidents which, they insist, build up evidence of police wrongdoing."

Innocent until proven guilty, he states, and to that end has taken active steps to quash rumours rife in the station.

"I believe in confrontation — rumour control. I arrive early to catch the early shift and stay late. I talk to them all and that is the best approach.

"And I have to say their attitude is positive. Clearly officers resent the microscope under which they have been put. But they almost redouble their efforts to continue the work which saw our figures for solving crimes rise by 4 per cent last year."

Meanwhile the inquiry continues, the men remain in their new posts and Stoke Newington braces itself for the backlash.

DRUG QUIZ COP KILLS HIMSELF

POLICE Sergeant Gerry Carroll killed himself after being ordered to provide information about ex-colleagues accused of peddling drugs.

Sgt Carroll, 46, shot himself through the head in a cell.

He was custody officer with the drugs squad in Stoke Newington, north London, when eight fellow officers were alleged to have been involved in drug dealing and bribery.

The accused officers have been transferred to other police stations while an investigation is carried out.

MP calls for judicial inquiry into police drug dealing claims

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A LABOUR MP yesterday called for the Home Secretary to set up a judicial inquiry into allegations of corruption at an east London police station.

The call comes in the wake of the transfer of eight officers from Stoke Newington police station following allegations by people convicted of drugs offences.

Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney South, tabled an early day motion in which he alleged that a number of officers at Stoke Newington had been "engaged in drug trafficking and perverting the course of justice". The motion adds that

"officers have made a mockery of the way in which Hackney council has co-operated with the police to get rid of drug dealing in Sandringham Road (known locally as the Front Line)".

Last week, Scotland Yard confirmed that an investigation into allegations about drugs and fabrication of evidence has been underway at Stoke Newington since last year.

Eight officers were transferred to other police stations. None were suspended. A ninth officer faces two criminal charges not connected with drugs. The inquiry is continuing.

Senior officers at the station yesterday said many of the allegations had been made by self-confessed drug dealers.

GUARDIAN

4.2.92

POLICE DRUG PROBE ORDERED

Eight officers transferred as top level inquiry gets under way

SCOTLAND Yard is investigating allegations of widespread corruption among police officers - including the running of a drug-dealing network which is said to have made one officer as much as £2,000 a week.

The investigation, by the Yard's Complaints Investigations Bureau (CIB) into north London's Stoke Newington police station CID, has also raised the question of whether police officers have been systematically 'fitting up' innocent people (many of them Black) by planting drugs to gain convictions.

Top level meetings have been held at Scotland Yard to discuss the situation, and prompted the transfer last week of eight officers from the station while the investigation is under way.

Another officer being investigated has already been suspended in relation to other charges.

MP Diane Abbot, whose constituency includes Stoke Newington, has called for an independent inquiry. She said: "Drugs are a very serious problem and, going by the letters I

By Heenan Bhatti

receive, are of great concern to my constituents."

She added: "If police officers have been involved it's extremely worrying. I would certainly call for an independent inquiry."

Legal

The allegations come from two women. One, a drug dealer who cannot be named for legal reasons, claims she sold drugs on behalf of police officers based at the station.

The other, Ida Oderinde, 31 - who is presently serving a four-year sentence - claims she was fitted up on a drug charge after she refused to sell drugs for police officers. The CIB have interviewed the two women.

Oderinde, a mother of three, told *The Voice*: "One of my children is a one-year-old



IDA ODERINDE: Claims she was fitted up by the police.

and doesn't even remember me any more. I shouldn't be in here. If I had done something wrong I would accept my sentence - but I haven't."

Graham Smith of Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA), a local group which takes up cases of people who claim to have been fitted up by the police, said: "The allegations do not surprise us. Hackney police seem still rooted in the 1970s mode of policing. The reforms of the 1980s seem to have passed them by."

VOICE

4.2.92

Met to put more bobbies on beat

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

POLICE manpower is to be moved away from headquarters and into local divisions in a response to the public's desire to see more officers on the street, according to the Metropolitan Police's five-year strategy unveiled in London yesterday.

The intention, said John Smith, deputy commissioner, launching the document, was to establish community-based "sector policing" as the cornerstone for the next five years.

At present, between 1,000 and 2,000 of the Metropolitan police's 29,000 officers are on the street at any one time.

Mr Smith said that the document, Corporate Strategy 1992/93 to 1996/97, was "more than just a fancy title or a wish-list for the future." It was the result of much public consultation.

The document sets out as priorities:

- Reduction of crime through partnership with other agencies, such as local authorities;
- Increased support for "vulnerable groups" such as the victims of domestic violence, child abuse, rape and racial harassment;
- Reduction of "unwarranted" fear of crime;

- Improvement of collection and presentation of police evidence;

- Improvement of performance in detecting crimes such as burglary, street robbery and motoring offences.

The document says that, over the past 10 years, fear of crime had increased considerably and the public wants to see patrolling officers. Extra manpower would be moved from headquarters into local divisions. More civilians would be employed for administrative jobs, increasing operational manpower.

After "a number of well-publicised cases" research was being carried out into the garnering of evidence, and training would be redesigned accordingly.

"More sophisticated police promotion systems" would be introduced in response to criticism that some talented officers do not move up the ladder fast enough.

Mr Smith said another priority would be more officers from ethnic minorities, though he said he was heartened by recent recruitment which took the number to 556.

There are 28,793 officers in the Metropolitan police and 16,501 civilian staff. The total budget annual budget is £1.63 billion.

GURDIAW 7-2-92

TV crew attacked while filming in drug dealing area

A TV crew filming in Sandringham Road, Dalston, for a report on allegations of drug dealing against Stoke Newington police were attacked and robbed by a crowd on Monday afternoon.

Men hanging around the street beat up the Thames TV crew, stole £9,000 worth of equipment and

caused £13,000 worth of damage to a recording van.

The crew was filming the notorious centre of local drug dealing for a news report on allegations that eight corrupt Stoke Newington officers had dealt in drugs and the major internal police probe which is now under way.

Det Sgt Tony Steel, of Stoke Newington CID, said the crew had just finished filming outside the Jerk Chicken Bar in Sandringham Road when a member of the public came over and demanded the tape.

When this was refused, he produced a knife, demanded "appear-

ance money" and began jumping up and down on the camera. At least seven other men ran up and started taking equipment from the van before the terrified crew managed to climb back aboard and drive off. Detectives charged one man with robbery and criminal damage.

MP rapped over police probe

Nine arrested in drugs raid

DRUGS squad officers from Stoke Newington arrested nine people in a raid on a takeaway food shop in Sandringham Road, Dalston, yesterday (Thursday) morning.

The surprise swoop on the premises in an area known locally as the Front Line comes amid a probe into alleged bribery and drug dealing involving eight policemen from Stoke Newington station. They were transferred to other stations last week.

Over 150 rocks of crack along with cannabis were seized after the drugs bust on the Jerk Chicken in Sandringham Road.

Chief Supt Roy Clark said: "It is a result of our ongoing operation to stamp out drug dealing in the area."

● Top cop raps MP - back page.

STOKE Newington's top cop sent a hard-hitting message to Hackney MP Brian Sedgmore this week, reminding him that the eight officers involved in an alleged drugs and bribery probe at his station are innocent until proven guilty.

Chief Supt Roy Clark accused the former barrister of pre-judging the outcome of the Scotland Yard investigation after the Labour MP condemned the officers as "nasty, vile and corrupt" in a House of Commons motion which called for the Home Secretary to set up a judicial inquiry.

It follows the transfer of eight officers to other police stations after allegations by people convicted of drug offences that officers planted, dealt in and resold illegal drugs. None have been suspended.

In the early day motion the MP alleges officers had been "engaged in trafficking drugs and perverting the course of justice."

And the MP accuses Chief Supt Clark of misleading him as to the size of the problem as a result of being duped by his own men.

This week Chief Supt Clark said he was "appalled and amazed" at the MP's motion.

"I'm amazed that an MP who is a trained barrister can pre-judge an issue and call officers 'nasty, vile and corrupt' on the strength of allegations alone," he said.

"I do not feel I have been duped by my police officers. It is important these allegations are put in perspective. They are being made by people, on the whole, who are self-confessed drug dealers. At the moment they are only allegations. It could well be that they are exonerated at the end of the day."

Police seize heroin during swoop on clothing factory

DETECTIVES netted heroin with a street value of over £150,000 and made eight arrests in a raid on a Hackney clothing factory.

The raid on the third-floor factory in Tudor Road, off Mare Street, came as a result of surveillance and intelligence work by Hackney detectives. A total of 1.5 kilograms of heroin was seized in the raid.

Two men appeared at Old Street Magistrates Court on Saturday charged with conspiracy to supply heroin. Six other men who were charged, including two from Hackney and two from Tower Hamlets, have been released on police bail.

HC 7.2.92

Thirty officers are named as group seeks judicial inquiry into policing

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A CALL for a full judicial inquiry into policing in an area of east London was made yesterday by a community group, which named 30 officers as being allegedly involved in malpractice.

The call — which echoes one made by Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, in the Commons on Monday — comes during a police investigation into what senior Scotland Yard sources have described as "the most serious corruption allegations for 20 years".

Last week, eight officers were moved from Stoke Newington police station following allegations regarding involvement with drug dealers in the area. A ninth officer faces serious

charges concerning VAT fraud and theft.

Yesterday Martin Walker, of the Hackney Community Defence Association, a local legal campaigning group, said "the situation in Hackney is completely and utterly out of control". He said the inquiry should not confine itself to allegations concerning the officers at Stoke Newington but should include allegations of assaults by officers attached to Hackney and City Road police stations.

Four men, who said they had experienced violence at the hands of local police officers and who are in the process of taking civil actions against the police, were present at a press conference in Hackney. A total of 25 civil actions have now been initiated against officers from the three stations.

Rudolph Hawkins, a former bricklayer, said he had been so

severely truncheoned by officers that he had suffered serious head injuries and a broken hand. "I used to be a bricklayer," he said. "I can never lay another brick. They've destroyed my career and my life."

Rafael Joseph, aged 50, claimed he was so badly beaten up after being stopped on his motorcycle going the wrong way down a one-way street that he had to be taken to hospital unconscious. "My life is different from the life I used to lead," said Mr Joseph, who broke down during the press conference.

Michael Lavery and Jeffrey Eaton, who were both cleared of grievous and actual bodily harm charges against the police at the Inner London crown court last year, both criticised the police, whom they are suing for malicious prosecution, assault and wrongful arrest. They

claim they were assaulted at the time of their arrest, in the police van and in the cells. "We are gutted about what has happened to us," Mr Heaton said.

Scotland Yard stresses that the Stoke Newington allegations have not been proved. Senior officers say they will "move heaven and earth" to deal with corruption should there be evidence of it. The Police Complaints Authority is supervising the inquiry.

On Monday, Mr Sedgemore accused officers at Stoke Newington of corruption in a Commons early day motion. Local senior officers say they were "appalled and amazed" by this.

Yesterday a spokeswoman for the police in the area said: "As far as the allegations are concerned, they are still purely allegations." It would be wrong to comment on cases which are the subject of litigation.

GUARDIAN 8.2.92

ONE IN THE EYE FOR ASSAULT COPS



Colin Patterson

OPARA: Forced to give up work as an electrician as a result of his injury.

Kicking victim sues police - and wins the case and £20,000

A MAN who turned down an offer of £25,000 by the Commissioner of Police for being beaten up by two officers has been awarded nearly £20,000 by a jury.

Eze Opara, 24, had left a party in Hackney, north London, in the early hours of the morning of August 10, 1986, when he was arrested.

But once he was in the police van the arresting officers, PC Dean Dwyer and PC David Percival, kicked him about the head and face, leaving him with severe damage to his left eye.

He was then taken to Stoke Newington police station and charged with carrying an offensive weapon and malicious assault on a policeman.

A year later a jury found Opara, from Kilburn, north London, not guilty of both charges.

By Stephen Bulgin

He then sued the police for unlawful arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution, and won the case last week at Westminster Crown Court.

Night

In the middle of the three-day case, the Commissioner of Police offered Opara £25,000 through his counsel, but Opara refused.

Judge Harris said that on the night of the arrest, PCs "Dwyer and Percival went to

the canteen and put their heads together and wrote out the statement." There was also a long delay in bringing the case to court.

"It is not good for the unfortunate plaintiff," the judge added.

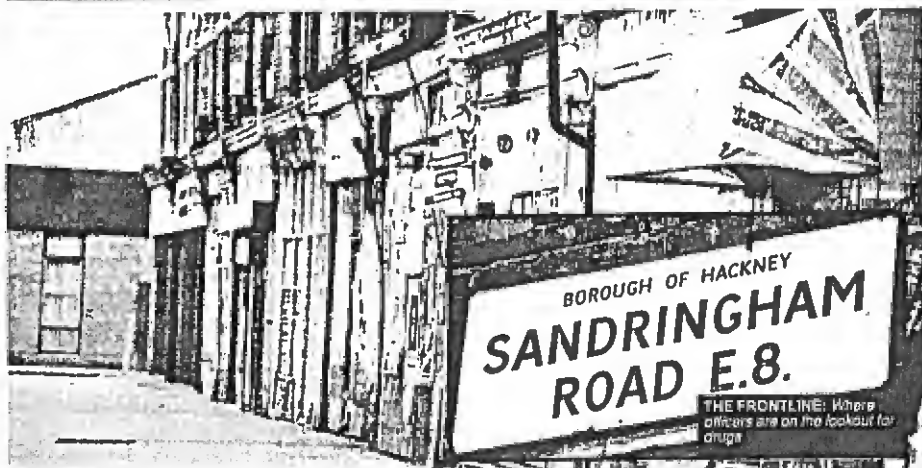
Opara was forced to give up his work as an electrician because of the damage to his eye.

"I don't mind the money being less than the first offer," he said after his victory. "It is the principle that counts - my name has been cleared.

"The money is peanuts, but it's an acknowledgement by the courts that the police are wrong. I am particularly pleased that I took them to court and won, even though the burden of proof was on me."

VOICE 11.2.92

A FORCE WITHIN A FORCE



STOKE NEWINGTON: The community claims the streets aren't safe.

The Metropolitan police have launched a massive investigation into allegations of widespread corruption at one of London's biggest police stations. **Heenan Bhatti** reports

Paul Scott was stopped by police officers while he was driving in north London last August. He was taken to Stoke Newington police station where he was charged with possession of crack. Scott said the drug had been planted on him at the police station.

It was alleged that during the arrest a fight broke out which ended with Scott, 30, being badly beaten about the head. He was referred to north London's Moorfields Eye hospital.

The injuries sustained by police officers included a tender middle finger and a bruised back hand. One officer complained that he had scuffed his shoes.

Scott's account was supported by an independent witness who responded to a poster appeal.

Scott, who spent five months awaiting trial, was acquitted last month. He now plans to sue the police.

He said: "The police in the area are doing this kind of thing all the time and it is time it was publicised."

"According to the police, the reason they suspected me of having drugs was because I was a Black person driving a car late at night. It is completely outrageous."

Scott's story, which is by no means unusual, gains significance against the background of developments in the last few weeks. The station he was taken to, north London's Stoke Newington police station, is now the focus for a Metropolitan police probe into allegations of widespread corruption.

It has been alleged that certain police officers have made a positive contribution to the level of crime in the area.

The two principle allegations are that a number of officers from Stoke Newington organised and supplied a drug dealing network in the area, living off drugs from other sources. One officer is alleged to have made as much as £2,000 per week. It is also alleged that they systematically planted drugs on people to gain convictions.

The allegations have prompted the transfer of eight officers to other stations while the Metropolitan Complaints Investigation Bureau (CIB) has codenamed the investigation 'Operation

Jackpot'. None of those transferred have been suspended.

Another officer under investigation has been suspended and is currently facing charges concerning VAT fraud and theft. Head of Stoke Newington Police Chief Superintendent Roy Clark, in the one interview he has given since the scandal



RENNIE KINGSLEY: Spent four months in jail.

broke, said: "At the moment they are only allegations, and until the inquiry is over will remain so. It could well be that they are exonerated."

The sensational allegations come from two women. One is a drug dealer, who cannot be named for legal reasons, who alleges she dealt drugs for police officers.

The other, Ida Oderinde, 31, a mother of three, alleges she was 'fitted-up' after she was approached by another dealer who suggested she deal the drugs for the police. Local MPs for the area Brian Sedgemore and Diane Abbott are calling for an independent inquiry. Sedgemore, in a strongly worded



IDA ODERINDE: Accused police of corruption.

early day motion in the House of Commons, accused Chief Superintendent Clark of 'being duped by his own officers'.

The area where the drug network is said to have operated is the notorious Sandringham Road, 'frontline' area of Hackney, east London.

Suspicion

The inquiry leads to the suspicion that certain Stoke Newington police officers have been operating as an uncontrolled 'force within a force'.

The flawed investigations of one officer, who is among the eight who have been transferred, were exposed in court and led to some extraordinary testimonies.

In three separate cases involving 'fit-ups', where all those charged were acquitted, the officer:

- took the unusual step of asking for a 'caution' in court, which means he could abstain from answering any questions which may have implicated him;

- was told by a judge three times to reconsider one of the answers he gave in court when he was contradicting documentary proof;

- said he saw a youth - who claimed he had been 'fitted-up' - in the street six weeks before he arrested him on drug possession charges. The young man was in prison at the time.

Graham Smith of the Hackney Defence Association (HCDA) - a local group which helps people who claim to have been 'fitted-up' - said the group would be taking action: "We are now going to be campaigning for the re-opening of cases where there are claims of a fit-up."

PCs jailed for attack on driver

TWO policemen who beat up and racially abused a black scientist were each jailed for two years yesterday.

Judge Geoffrey Rivlin also ordered ex-PC Mark Irvine, 28, and PC Barry Rankin, 25, to pay £500 compensation each to their victim, Emmanuel Ziregbe.

The two off-duty officers attacked Mr Ziregbe, who was working as a minicab driver, as they left a west London pub after a stag night celebration, Southwark crown court was told.

Sentencing the pair, the judge said: "Crimes by serving police against the very people they have undertaken to protect are always serious matters." Counsel for both men said they had destroyed promising careers for "five minutes of lunacy".

The two men were convicted of causing Mr Ziregbe, from Isleworth, west London, actual bodily harm. The jury, which took nearly 10 hours to reach its verdicts, acquitted a third officer, Simon Birch, 30, of a similar charge. It failed to reach a verdict in the case of a fourth officer, who now faces a retrial.

The incident happened last August when the four left a Hammersmith pub. The men approached Mr Ziregbe and asked him to take them to an Indian restaurant. He quoted a fare of £2.50 but when the men asked if he could take five pas-

sengers, he put the price up to £4 as he might be stopped by the police and was only insured to carry four. When told that they were police officers, he refused to take them.

Mr Ziregbe, 37, had told the court: "I heard something about spade bastard then the one with the glasses (Mr Irvine) turned to face me and said: 'Black bastard'. I felt why should I be subjected to such abuse because I refused to take them. I said 'You bastard' as well. I saw the guy with the glasses walking towards me. I thought he was going to give me verbal abuse. In three quick steps he grabbed hold of my T-shirt and head-butted me. I was stunned." Moments later, he said, Mr Irvine butted him again.

Later, as he was being led away, PC Rankin and Mr Irvine attacked him once more, punching, beating and kicking him. "I thought they were going to kill me," said Mr Ziregbe, who was not in court yesterday.

The court was told that Mr Irvine, from Belfast, had left the police to study law at London University. Michael Boardman, for Mr Irvine, said that he had been of exemplary character. Nicholas Price, for PC Rankin, of Hayes, Middlesex, said his wife had left him on the day of the attack. Since then they had been reconciled and she was expecting their first baby.

GUARDIAN

12-2-92

'We want police investigated'

A WATCHDOG group has called for a top-level inquiry by a senior judge into the policing of Hackney and named 30 officers, it says, are allegedly involved in corruption and malpractice.

Hackney Community Defence Association wants an independent investigation into allegations of assaults and illegal arrests by officers at City Road, Hackney and Stoke Newington police stations, like the inquiry carried out by Lord Scarman into the Brixton riots 11 years ago.

At a press conference on Friday, an HCDA spokesperson said there were 25 separate private prosecutions being taken out against officers from the three stations.

Also at the press conference were Hoxton men Michael Eaton, Jeffrey Lavery and Raphael Joseph and Roderick Hawkins, from Stoke Newington, who are taking out private prosecutions against officers from City Road and Stoke Newington.

Last week a man who sued the police for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution, after he alleged he was beaten up by two constables based at Stoke Newington in 1986, was awarded nearly £20,000 by a jury at Westminster Crown Court.

HCDA presses for judicial inquiry - but top cops say it's not necessary

by MARK GOULD

Two weeks ago eight officers from Stoke Newington were transferred to other police stations as Scotland Yard's internal affairs officers continued a 10-month investigation - codenamed Operation Jackpot - into allegations that junior detectives dealt in drugs and took bribes.

A ninth officer faces serious theft and VAT fraud charges after investigations by Customs and Excise officers and fellow police officers in Hackney.

Hackney's two most senior cops, Chief Supt Bernard Taffe, who is in charge of Hackney and City Road police stations, and Chief Supt Roy Clark, in charge at Stoke Newington, both rejected calls for a judicial review.

"A Scarman-style inquiry is not needed. HCDA are an unelected, undemocratic, anti-police, anti-establishment group who tout for people who have got tales to tell against the police," said Chief Supt Clark.

"There are quite clearly a couple of issues that do need examination in the courts."

"I think there are very serious allegations being made and firmly believe that corrupt officers should go to prison, but these young officers are innocent until proven guilty," added Chief Supt Clark.

"I would totally deny that there is any institutionalised corruption at either Hackney or Stoke Newington," said Chief Supt Taffe. "This is a serious inquiry, but I believe we will be totally repudiated."

HACKNEY COMMUNITY DEFENCE ASSOCIATION

INJUSTICE

Police injustice is rampant in Hackney. 7 City Road officers were sacked in 1990. 8 Stoke Newington officers were transferred in January 1992. Scotland Yard says that the investigation into corruption in Stoke Newington Police Station is the most serious in London for 20 years.

Hackney Community Defence Association is calling for an independent public inquiry into policing in Hackney.

We have the names of over 100 police officers who have been implicated in malpractice. If you have been the victim of police wrong doing in the past 5 years please contact HCDA. We will investigate your case and support you in your demand for justice.

PHONE HCDA 071-249 0193
If unattended please leave message on ansaphone.

Drug squad arrest 13 in double raid on dealers

DRUG squad officers from Stoke Newington seized nearly 400 rocks of crack with a street value of £10,000 in two days of raids on one fast food shop on Dalston's "Front Line."

In the first raid on the Jerk Chicken in Sandringham Road last Thursday, nine people were arrested and more than 150 rocks of crack were seized.

The same team of detectives made another swoop on the shop less than 24 hours later and arrested four more people and seized 200 rocks of crack.

Of the 13 people arrested in the two-day operation, four have been charged with drug offences.

"In terms of seizures, these are the best results we have had," Chief Insp Dave Hudson pointed out.

He said the raids were part of a continuing operation to stamp out drugs in Sandringham Road, which has long been a mecca for dealers and buyers.

"In the short term, this sort of enforcement

is going to continue. In the longer term we and the council want to design the problem out of the area," Chief Insp Hudson added.

Negotiations are still going on to set up a "police shop" in Sandringham Road and there are ambitious plans for the Dalston area which police hope will include pedestrianising the Front Line to keep out passing drug trade.

"We hope it will take months rather than years for the shop to materialise," said Chief Insp Hudson. "There are big plans for the area if the money is available - the people who live here don't want the drug dealers."

● In a totally separate operation, 300 cops backed up by sniffer dogs staged dawn raids on homes in Hackney, Whitechapel and Islington as part of a massive Scotland Yard operation against north London crack dealers. Police arrested 43 people, including dealers, in the Tuesday morning clampdown codenamed Operation Welwyn.

Scotland Yard would not give details of the addresses raided, which also included bed and breakfast hotels in Holborn and King's Cross. Ten people have been charged with drug offences.

Police go on the toy town beat



● Toddler Joseph Wood tries on a helmet for size, pictured with Pc Phil Parkes (left) and Insp Len Hayhoe.

BIG-HEARTED coppers visited kiddies at a cancer rehabilitation centre to hand out toys to the brave patients.

Uniformed officers and CID cops at City Road raised around

£200 to treat the youngsters at the centre in Buttesland Street, Hoxton.

"It was the best officers' idea to raise money," said Insp Len Hayhoe, of City Road police.

"The centre is for kids who've been treated at Bart's and Moorfields Eye Hospital for cancer. They often stay for up to five weeks. So we thought they could do with some toys."

Boys in blue get a visit from the men in white coats!

DON'T worry if you spot City Road cops being accompanied by men (and women) in white coats... no, they haven't cracked under the strain of being on the beat on Hackney's tough streets!

For their newest recruits are trainee doctors, pounding the beat with the police in a pioneering scheme organised by Bart's Hospital and top cops to open students' eyes to what life is really like in Hackney.

So the budding docs swapped lecture halls and plastic skeletons for a taste of police work and to see for themselves the borough their future patients live in.

Two trainee doctors and a trainee dentist went out on foot patrol with City Road cops on Thursday last week, and further link-ups are planned over the next several weeks involving students from Bart's and the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel.

The scheme was the brainchild of Dr Jane Leaver, a senior lecturer at Bart's in environ-

mental and preventative medicine.

"The main idea is to get the students away from lecture rooms and out into the community they'll be working in," she told the Gazette.

"It gives green young students the chance to see for themselves the conditions their future patients live in."

"And it is always good for the services to work together to break down any barrier between them. We would also like to see nurses and social workers going out on patrol with the police."

"The students also help out in other ways in the community and this Community Module scheme is now recognised as part of their curriculum."

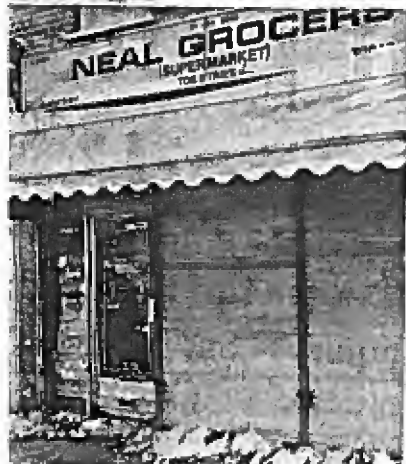
Chief Insp John Grundy of City Road nick said: "We were delighted when we were asked to help with this scheme. This was an ideal way for agencies to work together for the good of the community."



● Just take a deep breath! Pc James Bradley under the close eye of trainee doctors Jas Bhular (left) and Bernard Lendor and trainee dentist Janice Lendor (centre).

HS
14.2.92

Borough rocked by two fatal stabbings in the space of 24 hours



at Grocers in Green Lanes, Stoke Newington... scene of murder of Sundip Shah.

MURDER MAYHEM

CRIME in Hackney plummeted to new depths last week after two men were brutally stabbed to death within 24 hours of each other.

Grocer Sundip Shah, 27, bled to death from a single stab wound to the neck after a fight with a robber on Thursday at the mini-market owned by his family in Green Lanes, Stoke Newington.

Cops from Stoke Newington and Highbury, who were first on the scene, joined with shoppers and neighbouring shopkeepers in a battle to save the hard-working young man's life.

Despite the quick arrival of a 999 ambulance, which took Mr Shah to Barn's Hospital where doctors fought to revive him, he died within the hour.

The Shah family are still in a state of shock over the sudden and violent death of their son, who shared the family home in Friern Barnet.

A neighbour who lives in Burna Road told the Gazette: "Mr Shah was always at the shop. He never had a day off sick, he was always hard-working and industrious. It was a great shock when I heard he had been stabbed."

With the shop still shuttered as the Gazette went to press on Thursday morning, neighbours and friends had placed bunches of flowers on the doorstep as a mark of respect.

by MARK GOULD

Yesterday morning (Thursday), unemployed Carl Anthony, 25, from Mabley Street, Homerton, was charged with Mr Shah's murder. He appeared at Highbury Magistrates' Court and was remanded in custody until next Thursday.

The day after Mr Shah's death, unemployed Keith Russell, 35, from Graham Road, Dalston, was murdered at a flat in Baker's Hill, Upper Clapton.

He suffered stab wounds to the throat and stomach. His body was not discovered by Stoke Newington cops until Sunday.

On Monday, unemployed Paul Coia, 46, who lives at the flat where Mr Russell's body was found, was charged with murder. He appeared at Highbury Magistrates' Court and was remanded in custody for seven days.

Police charge two men over killings

Arresting sights for ANC



ANC activist Eddie Funde shakes hands with Hackney Supt David Hynes.

ACTIVISTS from the African National Congress must have felt a touch of déjà vu when they toured Hackney police station on Thursday last week.

For it wasn't so very long ago in their South African homeland that they were more likely to be held in a police cell under arrest as Public Enemy Number One, rather than being hewn around as guests of honour.

But with apartheid crumbling and democracy moving ever closer in South Africa, the ANC is recognised as a key player in the country's transformation.

So, when Prime Minister John Major invited representatives from black rights groups to talk with him, they asked to be shown the British

police force at work - and Hackney was chosen as one of the stations for them to visit.

Supt David Hynes, based at Hackney police station, said: "We were picked as a typical busy, inner-city station and the group particularly wanted to meet police officers on the street rather than more senior officers."

"It is likely these people will hold high office in a new government in South Africa, and they were interested in our approach to policing compared to what they are used to in their country."

As well as members of the ANC, there were representatives from the Azanian People's Organisation and the Pan African Congress.

Drugs fears over warehouse raves

HACKNEY cops and residents want to ban all-night raves at a warehouse in Homerton where they say designer drugs like Ecstasy are sold.

Residents of nearby Gilby House say the noise from more than 20 all-night raves in the back of a former carpet warehouse in Homerton High Street has led to many families sleeping in front sitting rooms to escape the din.

One resident said: "The situation is horrendous. There are people coming and going all night and the place is littered with rubbish and there are sometimes used syringes dropped where the children play."

Chief Insp Ken Day, from Hackney police, told Wednesday's meeting of Hackney Council's planning committee that parties had been linked with the latest designer drug Ecstasy. Police are also worried about access problems.

The committee deferred planning permission for a staircase access until more information was available. But the council licensing committee meets next Tuesday and could grant a one-off music and dancing licence for the warehouse.

Helpful copper comes a cropper!

A COPPER came a cropper when he tumbled to the ground after searching a roof because a worried householder thought he heard intruders.

Pc David Hale of City Road police was called to a house in Haggerston Road just

after midnight on Sunday. He fell off a wall as he was climbing down from the roof.

"He is in hospital with cracked vertebrae and we're expecting him to be there for about 10 days," said Sgt Tim Barfoot of City Road Crimedesk.

HC 14.2.92

Strong arms of the law

Tony Thompson reports on allegations of corruption and malpractice in Hackney

The food at the Jerk Chicken West Indian takeaway in Hackney's Sandringham Road was never going to win a Michelin star. The fried fish was a little too soggy and the chicken pieces were of dubious origin. But at least on cold winter nights, it was a warm place to buy drugs. Crack, cannabis and LSD; takeaway service only. But now, after two raids in a fortnight, Jerk Chicken is to be closed down. It's a pattern the locals are fast getting used to.

Over the past two years, the Roots Pool community centre, Ladbroke's betting shop and the Lord Stanley public house (now reopened) have all been closed by the police in an attempt to drive out the drug dealers, but the problem remains as obvious as ever.

Open defiance of the police is *de rigueur*. Every night, at least a dozen dealers congregate on the pavements at the eastern end of Sandringham Road, openly buying and selling drugs with bravado. The dealers know all the local police—uniform and plain-clothed—well enough to have given every one a street name. They even know all the unmarked cars, and are becoming adept at evading justice.

"You musn't be greedy," said one, his head flicking from side to side as if watching some imaginary tennis match. "You don't carry too much stuff on you, you don't stay out too long, and you keep moving. Just sell a few, then go. That way you'll never get caught."

The difficulties of apprehending the dealers has led to a change in tactics. Officially, this involves a more permanent uniform deterrent and a reduction in undercover work. But the change in tactics that sceptics claim to have taken place involves the planting of drugs on members of the public—some with previous convictions, some not—in a bid to boost arrest records.

In the past two weeks, Operation Jackpot, headed by Detective Sergeant Ian Russell of Scotland Yard's Complaints Investigation Bureau, has led to eight of the station's officers being transferred to other duties following allegations that they planted and dealt in illegal drugs. The main accusations have been made by two female drug dealers. The first, who is shortly due to appear at trial and cannot be named, claims she was supplied with drugs by police officers and made to pass on the profits of her dealing to them.

The other, 31-year-old Ida Oderinde, who has previous drug convictions, is currently serving four years for possession. She says

she was fitted up by police after refusing to sell drugs for officers. None of the eight officers has been suspended. All are continuing similar duties elsewhere in the capital.

Yet despite the lack of credibility usually given to convicted dealers, the transfers have been a catalyst for action in the area. At least a dozen convicted drug dealers, dealt with by the same officers, are now hoping to appeal, while the local community defence group has taken the opportunity to renew calls for a public enquiry into policing in the area.

Last Friday (7 February), the Hackney Community Defence Association, which campaigns on behalf of those who have suffered injustice, named 30 officers whom it claims have been involved in serious malpractice in the area over the past three years.

"There is a state of fear between the community and the police," says HCDA spokesman Graham Smith. "Not everybody has to be beaten up by the police for the whole community to be terrified by them. Not everyone has to have drugs planted on them to think they might be next. We believe a West Midlands Serious Crime Squad type situation is emerging in north London. This isn't just about drugs or about Sandringham Road, it's about police crime in Hackney which is getting out of control."

The ghosts of corruption, police brutality and malpractice were supposed to have been destroyed along with the old station at Stoke Newington, which was demolished in 1989. But the new building, opened a year later at a cost of £9 million, is a silk purse of a police station in a sow's ear of a community. Thirty-five thousand crimes are carried out in Hackney each year and a recent report showed that one in four of all crack seizures in London occur in the borough.

Inside the new station's bright, airy open-plan foyer, flanked in plate glass, a huge board marked "Information" lists the names of all the senior officers. At the top, next to the heading "Officer In Charge" is Chief Superintendent Roy Clark. He denies any conflict in trying to police a high crime area while at the same time attempting to provide a friendly and efficient service to the community. Instead he blames the public dissent on "myths" that have hung around the area for the past ten years.

One of the more prominent myths, he says, is the case of Trevor Monerville who suffered a brain clot while in police custody in 1987, and whose name is often mentioned

NEW SPATEMAN & SOCIETY

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alongside allegations of assault and brutality. "When Monerville's parents filled in a missing persons form for their son, they noted that his speech had been slurred for some time, a clear indication that the clot was manifest long before he was taken into custody," says Chief Superintendent Clark.

"It's the same with the Colin Roach case. A mentally deranged young man decides to commit suicide in the foyer of a police station. People somehow still think the police shot him. They imagine an officer was waiting behind the door with a sawn-off shotgun ready to shoot the next person who came in. They just haven't looked at all the facts."

But there are many other cases that cause concern. The HCDA's report, *A Crime is a Crime*, details 143 cases taken up by the group in the past three years. Rudolf Hawkins, for example, was arrested on a motoring charge by officers from Stoke Newington station. While standing outside his front door, he was beaten with a truncheon and suffered serious head injuries, requiring several stitches and a broken hand. "I used to be a bricklayer but my hand was so badly damaged, I can never work again. I've lost my trade over it," says Hawkins. "It's completely messed up my life. I couldn't go out of the house for months. It made me paranoid and I've been in therapy ever since."

There are other cases, strongly disputed when the defendants went to trial, who now hope to appeal on the strength of the allegations being made against officers from Stoke Newington. Dennis Tulloch was arrested by drugs squad officers from Stoke Newington Police Station in the Ladbrooke's betting shop on the Sandringham Road in September 1990. He was searched in the street, and eight wraps of crack were removed from his trouser pocket. Tulloch claims he has never used crack and that the drugs were planted.

In court, three drugs squad officers said they saw Tulloch making a deal and pursued him into a betting shop. The defence, however, produced maps and photographs, showing that the officers would have been at least 150 feet away and unable to see anything clearly. But the evidence of the custody sergeant, who corroborated the officers' statements that they found more crack on Tulloch once he was at the station, was enough put him away for four years. Leave to appeal was initially refused, but Tulloch's solicitors are now reviewing his case, as two of the officers who arrested him are among those being transferred.

Chief Superintendent Clark is confident that, in the case of the 143 cases listed by the HCDA, the police will be found to be at fault only in very few. He also asks why Hackney should be so different to other areas of London. Graham Smith believes the reason Hackney stands out is that it is alone in having a community group to represent those who have been maltreated. "That just makes the allegations against the officers at Stoke Newington more serious. There is a wealth of independent evidence to back it up."

Chief Superintendent Clark turns this argument round. "If you go to any inner-city borough, or even the most rural, leafy suburb in the country and set yourself up as a group

Hackney police 'assault' - Hackney and Stoke Newington police face over 25 claims for - Denis Campbell and Catharine Pepinster report.



that campaigns for injustice, you'll have people flocking to you. Problems do occur. Sometimes officers do overreact or use excessive violence—at the end of the day they are only human—but in my experience this happens only very rarely."

Not so, says the HCDA. The 143 cases detailed in its report point to a far more serious breakdown of policing in the area. Many of the officers suspected of misconduct have been named again and again by separate defendants. One of the 30 officers named at the recent HCDA press conference was Police Sergeant 25GN Gerrard Carroll, a former custody officer at Stoke Newington. The HCDA claims to have a wealth of evidence against him, with at least six cases in which he was implicated. He was being investigated by the two area complaints divisions for a number of allegations dating back to May 1989, including assault, unlawful arrest and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. While the enquiry was launched, Carroll was transferred from Stoke Newington to Barkingside, where he again took up the role of custody officer.

The day after the officers were transferred from Stoke Newington, Carroll committed suicide by shooting himself through the head in a cell at Barkingside station. Detective Sergeant Ian Russell, who is heading Operation Jackpot, denies having made any

approaches to Carroll regarding the investigation, or intending to do so.

Meanwhile, the dealers on the Sandringham Road continue to ply their trade. Chief Superintendent Clark admits systematically closing down their safe havens will result only in moving on the problem but believes that there is little more that can be done.

"Once we've cleared away all the dealers, we want to see money reinvested in the area and the shops and flats opened up again. Also, to prevent the flow-through traffic that many of the dealers depend on, we'd like to see the whole area pedestrianised. We can't solve London's drug problem but we can solve Hackney's."

No one denies that there is a serious crime problem in Hackney, or that the area is being dragged down by drug dealers from all over the capital who congregate on its streets to sell their wares. The residents of Wayland Avenue, which backs on to Sandringham Road, have been forced to cut down all the trees and bushes in their front gardens to prevent dealers from hiding there.

"That's the most frightening thing about the police in Hackney," says Graham Smith. "We need them."

"A Crime is a Crime is a Crime" is available from the HCDA, 50 Rectory Road, London N16 7QY, price £2

NOW STATESMAN & POLICITY

14-2-92

**HACKNEY COMMUNITY DEFENCE
ASSOCIATION**

INJUSTICE?

HCDA is calling for an independent public inquiry into policing in Hackney.

If you have been a victim of police wrongdoing in the past five years, regardless of whether you have been convicted, please contact HCDA. We will investigate your case and support you in your demand for justice.

Phone HCDA 071-249 0193
IF UNATTENDED LEAVE MESSAGE ON
ANSWERPHONE

V417

VOICE 18.2.92

Police to pay £20,000 for 'racism'

TWO black people who claimed they were treated in a racist manner by the police yesterday won a total of £20,000 in an out of court settlement.

The agreed award to Rodney Pilgrim, aged 31, from Barbados, and his cousin, Valerie Marche, aged 30, a contract furnisher, of Stratford, east London, was announced at Croydon county court, south London.

The police will also pay their costs.

An agreed statement read to Judge Michael Goodman said Mr Pilgrim was arrested on suspicion of possessing cannabis on December 4, 1988.

He and Mrs Marche had been a passenger in a car driven by her husband Patrick, aged 32, when they were stopped for alleged speeding in Clapton, east London.

In a statement after yesterday's hearing, the three said the offer had been accepted only because they did not have the funds to take the case further.

"We would deem ourselves respectable citizens.

"But on the night of the incident we were treated as caged animals, having no say and no rights.

"Our experience could be summarised as 'mental rape'. We were simply going about our business when we were

pounced upon by these police officers."

The statement read out to the judge said that after the driver denied speeding, two officers accused Mr Pilgrim of throwing a small packet of cannabis out of the car window.

He denied this and when Mrs Marche remonstrated she was arrested for obstruction. Both were taken to Dalston police station, where Mr Pilgrim was strip-searched.

Mrs Marche claimed police had threatened to strip-search her and desisted only when she pointed out she had been arrested for obstruction. Both were detained for about two hours before being released when their solicitor arrived.

Mrs Marche admitted the offence and was cautioned in the presence of her solicitor but claims she had not committed any offence.

Mr Pilgrim was later charged with possession of cannabis but this was dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Pilgrim and Mrs Marche sued the Metropolitan Police for false imprisonment and Mr Pilgrim also sued for malicious prosecution. The police denied the claims.

The pair yesterday called for a full inquiry into "these types of incidents, which are now becoming very common". They added: "Our only crime that night was being black."

CUNROIAN

18.2.92

Officer X identity revealed

Denis Campbell on the disgraced former DC at the centre of a police scandal.



The identity of Officer X — the 'corrupt' police officer accused of making up to £2,000 a week from supplying crack cocaine to a big time dealer in Stoke Newington — can finally be revealed.

Time Out can disclose that he is Detective Constable Roy Lewandowski, who is already serving an 18 month prison sentence for stealing £3,000 worth of valuables from a murder victim whose killing he helped investigate.

The media have been banned since last July from naming Lewandowski as the policeman, referred to only as Officer X, who was accused in court during crack dealer Pearl Cameron's trial of receiving £1,000-£2,000 a week from her. That claim, which Judge Grigson apparently accepted, seemed to support persistent claims that some officers from Stoke Newington station had profited from fuelling the crack trade in one of London's most drug-ridden areas.

Cameron was given a lenient five-year jail term at Snaresbrook Crown Court when Judge Grigson said that 'your involvement in dealing stemmed from the advances of a corrupt police officer'. That 'corrupt' officer was DC Lewandowski.



Unmasked at last: Officer X — former Stoke Newington DC Roy Lewandowski.

dowski. He was kicked out of the Metropolitan Police last November when he was found guilty of the theft charges.

Cameron also received a light sentence because of the cooperation she gave Operation Jackpot, Scotland Yard's 22 month internal inquiry into allegations of corruption at Stoke Newington.

Counsel in the Cameron case agreed to refer to Lewandowski, a 31-year-old Liverpoolian, merely as Officer X because he was due to face two sets of criminal charges: the theft charges and, later, a

separate charge of involvement in a £5 million VAT fraud.

Last week, however, the VAT fraud charge against Lewandowski was suddenly withdrawn in controversial circumstances, six weeks into an old-style committal with 14 other defendants.

Rodney McKinnon, counsel for Customs & Excise, told City of London Magistrates Court there was 'insufficient evidence' to continue with the charge. It had been brought after the DC was implicated in a racket to defraud Customs & Excise involving illegal gaming machines in cafés around north London.

However, suspicions persist that Lewandowski, his mind concentrated by the prospect of further years in jail for drugs offences, did a deal with Operation Jackpot — to name officers involved in drug dealing in return for immunity from prosecution or a light sentence.

Operation Jackpot's initial report into the corruption at Stoke Newington named three officers as having profited from drug dealing. But detectives were facing difficulties getting hard evidence against at least two other former Stoke Newington officers, one now a Detective Inspector at another station believed to have 'taught Lewandowski his tricks'. If rumours of a deal are correct, those officers could now face charges.

One Stoke Newington officer told *Time Out*: 'The reality is that we need Lewandowski to tell his story so we can get to the bottom of this. If that means a deal is done, I'd have no problem with that.'

The local police watchdog group HCDA said: 'The sudden collapse of this case will not allay community fears about police crime. The Home Secretary should announce a judicial inquiry into Stoke Newington police without delay.'

Meanwhile, James Blake and Francis Hart, jailed for eight years for the manslaughter of David Berman — the recluse from whom Lewandowski stole the valuables — had their convictions quashed after just 45 minutes at the Court of Appeal on Monday. Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, said the evidence given by Lewandowski, the exhibits officer on the Berman murder, against the pair was 'tainted'.

TIME OUT

17-24. 2.93

Inquiry call as HCDA point finger at cops

A WATCHDOG group is calling for a Scarman-style inquiry into Hackney policing in the light of what they say is widespread corruption among officers in the area.

Lord Scarman was called in to investigate the circumstances of the Brixton riots 11 years ago and the

Hackney Community Defence Association are demanding that an equally senior judge be appointed to probe policing methods in Hackney.

The HCDA have named 30 officers it says are allegedly involved in corruption and malpractice.

They are demanding an independent investigation into allegations of assaults and illegal arrests by officers

at City Road, Hackney and Stoke Newington police stations.

But calls for a judicial review have been slammed by the borough's two most senior cops, Chief Supt Bernard Taffs, in charge of Hackney and City Road police stations, and Chief Supt Roy Clark, in charge at Stoke Newington.

"A Scarman-style inquiry is not nec-

ded. HCDA are an unelected, undemocratic, anti-police, anti-establishment group who tout for people who have got tales to tell against the police," said Chief Supt Clark.

Chief Supt Taffs is equally dismissive over suggestions of police malpractice: "I would totally deny that there is any institutionalised corruption at either Hackney or Stoke Newington," he said.

Doctors check up on the Boys in Blue

CITY Road cops are currently breaking into the surgical spirit but it should not, you will be glad to hear, affect their ability to keep a clear head when it matters.

It's all part of a scheme organised by Bart's Hospital and top cops to show trainee doctors a slice of life on the streets of Hackney.

Budding Doctor Kildares will be stepping out on the beat with Hackney cops to find out all about police work and about the area in which their future patients live.

"The main idea is to get the students away from lecture rooms and out into the community they'll be working in," explained Dr Jane Leaver, a senior lecturer at Bart's, and the brains behind the scheme.

"It gives green young students the chance to see for themselves the conditions their future patients live in.

"And it is always good for the services to work together to break down any barriers between them. We would also like to see nurses and social workers going out on patrol with the police."

The new scheme has been welcomed by Chief Insp John Grundy of City Road nick. "It's an ideal way for agencies to work together for the good of the community," he said.



● Showing a healthy interest in the work of Pc Paul Brook is trainee doctor Bernard Lendor.

HY ECHO
19.2.92



● Rodney Pilgrim and Valerie Marché - "we have been abused, ill-treated, degraded and maliciously imprisoned."

'Racist cops' cost £20,000 pay-out

by MARK GOULD

HACKNEY police are in the firing line again this week after a £20,000 payout to two black people who say they were treated like "caged animals" by racist cops.

Last week police watchdog group Hackney Community Defence Association called for a Scarman-style inquiry into allegations of police corruption and malpractice in Hackney.

On Monday, the Metropolitan Police paid £20,000 to Rodney Pilgrim, 31, and his cousin Valerie Marché, 30, in an out-of-court settlement following their arrest and detention at Dalston police station in December, 1988.

Two weeks earlier another man was awarded nearly £20,000 by a jury after he sued for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution following an incident in 1986 involving two PCs from Stoke Newington.

Mr Pilgrim and Mrs Marché were being driven along Upper Clapton Road at about 10pm in a £20,000 Porsche driven by Valerie's husband Patrick, 32, when they were stopped for alleged speeding.

Officers in a police van said Mr Pilgrim, who was on Christmas holiday from Barbados, threw cannabis out of the window.

Mrs Marché complained and was arrested for obstruction. After they were taken to Dalston police station, Mr Pilgrim was strip-

ssearched and charged with possession, but the charge was later dropped.

The Metropolitan Police denied claims of false imprisonment and malicious prosecution, but made an offer of £20,000, which was accepted.

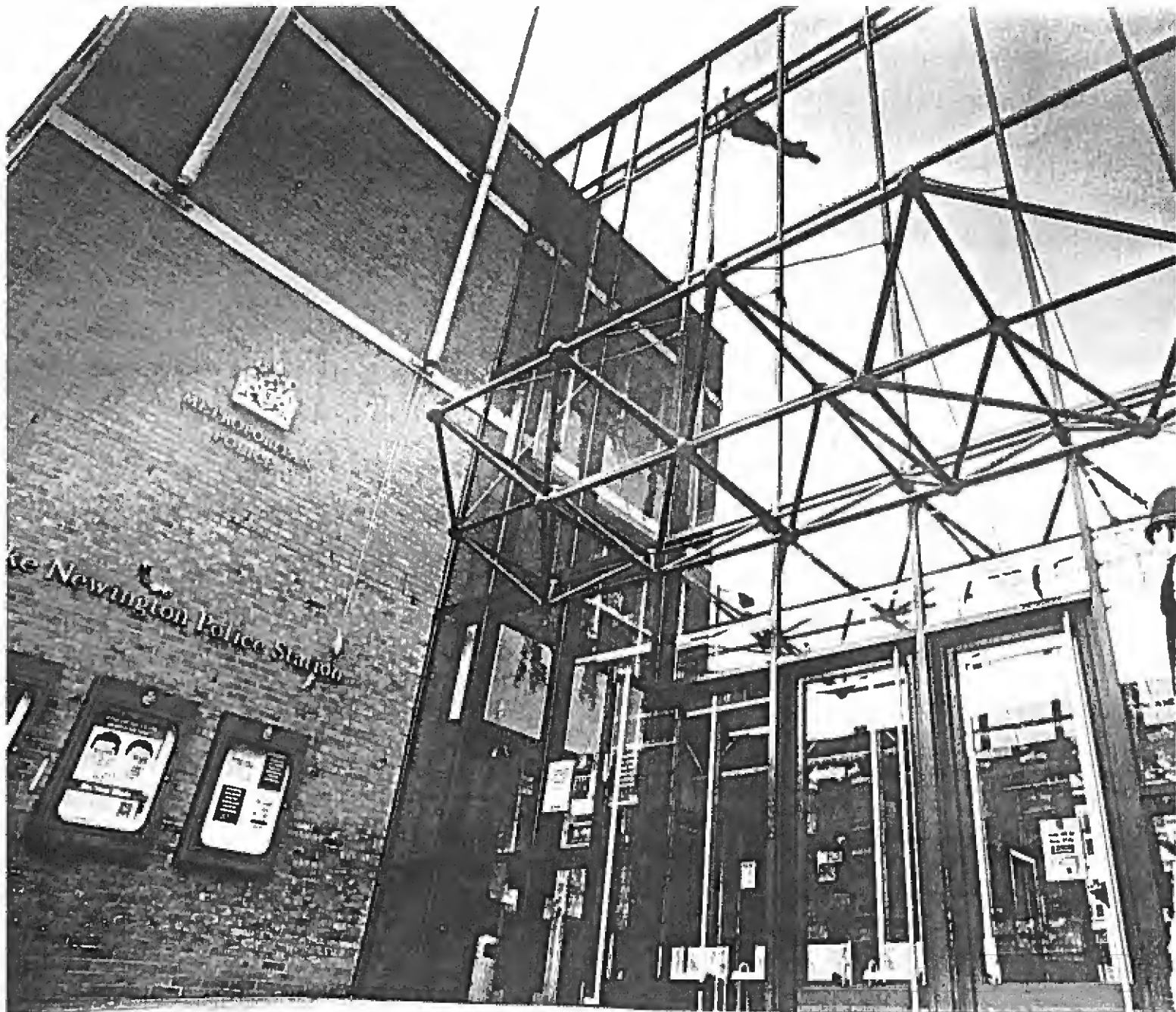
In a statement to the Gazette, the Marchés and Mr Pilgrim said the officers who carried out "this very callous and appalling act" were lucky because the offer had only been accepted because they didn't have the funds to take the case further.

"We were only going about our business. Our single crime was being black.

"We would deem ourselves respectable citizens, but on the night of the incident we were treated like caged animals, having no say and no rights. Our experience could be summarised as mental rape. We have been abused, ill-treated, degraded and maliciously imprisoned."

Chief Supt Roy Clark said he did not feel it appropriate to comment on the case as the arresting officers were from the Territorial Support Group and not from Hackney, and the incident happened before he became the senior officer at Stoke Newington.

HC 21.2.92



WRONG ARM OF THE

Last month a Hackney MP launched a bitter attack on 'those nasty, vile and corrupt officers at Stoke Newington police station who have been engaged in drug trafficking and perverting the course of justice'. Denis Campbell and Tony Thompson report.

The police officer at the reception desk of Stoke Newington's space-age nick is apologetic. 'Sorry darling, can't find your lost dog,' he tells the woman. 'How about a line of coke?' Happily this unlikely scene exists only in a cartoon, part of a handbill currently being distributed locally by the Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA) asking 'victims of police wrongdoing' to contact them.

Relations between police and

community in the area, already tense, have reached a new crisis point following sensational allegations that officers from Stoke Newington station have been involved in dealing in drugs and planting illegal substances on suspects.

Brian Sedgemore, a Hackney MP, has tabled an early day motion in the House of Commons condemning 'those nasty, vile and corrupt officers at Stoke Newington police station who have been engaged in drug trafficking and perverting the

course of justice'.

The allegations are, however, one of several controversies to engulf the police in Hackney and Stoke Newington. They have repeatedly been accused of assaulting and fabricating evidence against suspects. The fact that many of their alleged victims have been black has fuelled charges of police racism.

Eight officers have been transferred to other stations. The claims, despite having been made by drug dealers, are the subject of an inquiry by Scotland Yard's Complaints Investigation Branch, its internal disciplinary body. If the claims are proven, they will amount to one of the biggest scandals to hit the Metropolitan Police in the last 20 years.

In one of the most notorious incidents of misbehaviour, seven officers from City Road station were sacked after they beat up Gary Stretch, a local man, in a pub in

1987 while off-duty. Stoke Newington police has already paid out £67,000 in damages in the first seven weeks of 1992.

This week, *Time Out* names three of the officers involved in some of the incidents which have embittered police community relations in Hackney and Stoke Newington. However, none of them has ever been suspended from duty. Graham Smith of HCDA says: 'Those police officers who are accused of crime should explain themselves at a public forum -- a judicial inquiry -- just as many of their victims have had to defend themselves in open court.'

DC RONALD PALUMBO

On Wednesday January 29, eight officers from Stoke Newington police station were transferred as the result of what Scotland Yard de-



LAW?

scribed as 'an internal investigation following allegations made by a number of people involved in drug dealing offences'.

Although the eight have not been named, *Time Out* has learned that one of them is Detective Constable Ronald Palumbo.

Idayatu Oderinde, a 31-year-old mother of three who is currently serving four years for intent to supply heroin, claimed at her trial last August that the drugs found at her home in Islington had been planted by police officers from Stoke Newington station. She told Snaresbrook Crown Court that she had been 'fitted up'. Palumbo, then a PC working with the CID, was one of the officers who raided Oderinde's home and found the heroin — which she claims was planted — hidden in a freezer.

DC Palumbo has also been involved in other controversial cases:

- In July 1990, Palumbo was involved in the arrest of two 17-year-olds for suspected burglary. But when the apparently straightforward case came to trial in June 1991, events took an extraordinary turn. In the witness box, DC Palumbo took the highly unusual step of asking the trial judge to caution him, giving him the right not to answer potentially incriminating questions.

'In my experience this is unprecedented,' said the solicitor acting for the boys. 'This was a police officer asking for the same rights given to all people suspected of committing a criminal offence.'

The two boys had pleaded not guilty, claiming the police had fabricated the evidence against them. They were cleared of all charges.

- In another case, last December, involving a man accused of possessing drugs, Palumbo was asked three times by the trial judge to reconsider evidence he was giving which appeared to contradict documentary proof. The man, whose defence was that the drugs had been planted on him, was acquitted.

- In yet another case, a man walked free after Palumbo's testimony — that he had seen him walking around Hackney six weeks before he arrested him for possession of drugs — was shown to be false. The man had been in prison at the time Palumbo said he had seen him.

PC MARK MOLES

PC Mark Moles, a 29-year-old officer based at City Road police station, has been a witness in two recent court cases which ended embarrassingly for the police.

Both times, men accused of assaulting police have walked free after claiming that they had been the real victims — of police violence. And on both occasions the verdicts have cast doubt on the veracity of evidence given on oath by a number of officers from City Road, including PC Moles.

- Last September, Michael Lavery and Jeffery Eaton, two Hackney builders, were acquitted by Inner London Crown Court on charges of causing actual and grievous bodily harm to five police officers. The court heard claims that PC Moles had a grudge against Lavery because of an earlier row in a pub about the Gary Stretch case.

Lavery and Eaton claimed in court that they were arrested without good reason by PC Moles and brutally assaulted by five officers, including Moles, in the police van, in the street and again in the cells at City Road. The jury took 15 minutes to find in favour of the defendants. Both men were acquitted and plan to sue the police for damages.

- A month later two other Hackney men had convictions for assaulting City Road police officers quashed on appeal.

At the appeal hearing, counsel for the men — who do not want to be named — made very similar allegations to those aired in the Lavery and Eaton case.

Once again, evidence from police witnesses was rejected. In all, 12 City Road officers, including Moles,

had appeared at the men's original trial; six of those later gave evidence in the Lavery and Eaton case.

- Last December, PC Moles appeared to have finally earned some positive publicity for himself and his colleagues at City Road station. A *Hackney Gazette* story detailed how two 'quick-thinking coppers' (Moles and his colleague, PC Andrew Petty) delivered a baby girl after her distraught mum had collapsed at her home'. Moles said: 'Everything happened so quickly as the baby's head started to come out just after we got there. Luckily I knew what to expect as I watched the birth and helped my wife when she had our baby.'

Yet the woman whose baby they supposedly delivered denies they did. Mother-of-three Maureen Barnes, 26, told *Time Out* that 'my baby was already born and in my arms when the police came. They did help me with the after-birth, but they can't say they delivered my baby because I know I delivered Simone myself.'

SERGEANT GERRARD CARROLL

A recent issue of the Metropolitan Police newspaper, *The Job*, carried an obituary for a Sergeant Gerrard Carroll. It spoke of a man who was 'well-liked and respected, outgoing with a ready sense of humour... very professional and a mentor to younger officers.'

For eight years, Sergeant Carroll was custody officer at Stoke Newington police station. In October 1990, however, he was suddenly transferred from his post to Barkingside station following accusations of beating up a black Hackney man and fabricating evidence against him.

The man had claimed that when he was arrested on May 17, 1989, he was beaten in the back of a police van and that a matchbox containing a small amount of cocaine was later planted in his car, which had stood idle in a garage for a year.

But when the case came to court in January 1990, the police offered no evidence and he was acquitted. The man, who does not want to be named, promptly made a formal complaint to the Police Complaints Authority. This led to Carroll being moved from Stoke Newington and investigated for alleged assault, false imprisonment and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

A final decision from the PCA on Carroll's behaviour was due to be issued next month, and it was expected to exonerate the officer. But on the morning of January 29 this year, when news broke that the eight Stoke Newington officers were to be transferred, Carroll was found dead in a cell at Barkingside station's custody unit, then based at Redbridge Magistrates Court. He had shot himself in the head with a police revolver.

Suggestions that Carroll had committed suicide after being put under pressure to answer questions about police corruption in Stoke Newington have been denied by senior officers. ■

POLICE RESPONSE



Chief Superintendent Roy Clark, the officer in charge at Stoke Newington, responds to the allegations against his officers: 'It was very painful the day the eight officers were transferred. The men were coming up to me and saying, "What happens if we make a very proper and correct drugs arrest, and there's an allegation that we've planted the stuff? Are we all going to be moved? Isn't this the drug dealers winning?"'

'But we decided that it wouldn't be that way. We realised that we needed to be even more professional than normal. We didn't want to demonstrate any increase in activity — that would be seen as petulance or as a form of retribution — but we've continued our efforts and that's had a very positive effect on morale.'

'We're under pressure from the local residents to get rid of the dealers and it's very frustrating for the officers working against them that they operate so openly. Even though we're very active against the dealers, that doesn't have any deterrent effect because the vast majority aren't even from Hackney. You do a swoop and arrest a guy from Barnet, then ten minutes later a guy from Croydon comes along. He hasn't got a clue what's just happened. If it was just local people dealing, word would get around.'

'Every single allegation or complaint against the police must be taken seriously. But these complaints have been made by convicted and self-confessed drug dealers against the very group of people that have been tasked to deal with them. The officers deserve a fair crack of the whip. I'm asking that people suspend judgement, sit back and wait. If any of my officers are found to be corrupt, then they should go to prison for a long time.'

'But I don't support the call for a public enquiry. There are already enough systems, checks and balances in existence. If we had a public enquiry every time a serious complaint was made against the police, we'd be so busy raking through our entrails that we'd never get anywhere. It would just mean more money for the lawyers and less money to prevent little old ladies being mugged or houses being burgled.'

Ringling in ears drove cop to shoot himself, coroner told

A POLICEMAN shot himself in the head to escape the torture of the constant ringing in the ears he'd suffered since a prisoner punched him at Dalston police station six years ago, an inquest heard.

Sgt Gerrard Carroll, 46, a former custody sergeant at Stoke Newington police station, had served in the Force for 26 years.

He was found slumped in the toilets at Barking-side police station's temporary custody bay at Redbridge Magistrates' Court at 6am on January 29.

As custody officer, he had access to the firearms room and had removed a Smith and Wesson .38 revolver and loaded it with six rounds, Walthamstow Coroner's Court was told.

His GP, Dr Andrew Briggs, said Sgt Carroll had been punched on the cheek while working at Dalston in December, 1986.

Soon after he began to complain of ringing in his

himself, coroner told

left ear and was found to have tinnitus, a complaint which sends disrupted messages from the ear to the brain and for which there is no known cure.

Dr Briggs added that on January 14 Sgt Carroll gave him the impression that the noise was driving him mad. "He could not sleep, he said it was affecting his marriage," said the doctor.

A few minutes before he was found, Sgt Carroll arrived at the custody area to take over from Sgt Robert James.

Sgt James told the inquest: "He said he hadn't slept all night. He said nobody really believed how bad it was.

He said sometimes it was so bad he could hear little voices in his ear."

Det Supt Roland Harris, leading an investigation into Sgt Carroll's death, referred to the officer's eight-year career at Stoke Newington, where officers are currently under investigation over allegations of drug dealing and bribery and stressed: "He was not the subject of any investigations, he was not to be disciplined, nor was he under any suspicion."

Recording that Sgt Carroll killed himself, coroner Dr Harold Price said: "The tinnitus was the overwhelming and overriding cause of Sgt Carroll's distress, and I must say the cause of his death."

Nine arrested in raid on party

NINE police officers needed medical treatment and nine other people were arrested after a party erupted into violence at a squatted pub in Stoke Newington.

Trouble flared at about midnight on Sunday when police were called to the Nevill Arms at the corner of Bauld Road and Nevill Road, following complaints from neighbours about the noise.

Scuffles between the two sides quickly turned into a full-scale battle and police reinforcements - including dog handlers - flooded to the scene from as far afield as Edmonston.

Squatters have been living at the old pub since last year. Parties are regularly held

there and the building has become a sort of alternative community centre for many people.

One of those at the party, Daniel Evans, a 32-year-old social worker, said: "There were women with children and babies there and they were very frightened. Everything had been quite happy until midnight."

Chief Insp David Hudson, from Stoke Newington police station, said: "A decision was made to clear the pub to prevent a breach of the peace. Nine of my officers needed medical treatment and one is still off sick."

Hospital order for man accused of attacking policeman

A MAN accused of a knife attack on a rookie police officer has been transferred from prison to a maximum security mental hospital because of his failing mental state, an Old Bailey judge said.

"We can only hope that with treatment he will be restored to be tried in the not too distant future," Judge Brian Smedley, QC, announced.

David Moss, 24, unemployed, of Anderson House, Wyke Estate, Homerton, had been on remand at the new Belmarsh Prison in London.

He was arrested last year and charged with attempting to murder probationary constable Ian Slaney, 19, on June 26 at St John's Churchyard, Lower Clapton.

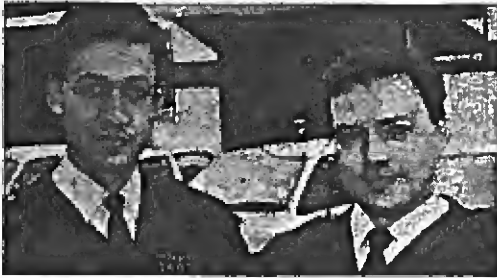
Moss also faces an alternative allegation of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Pc Slaney was stabbed three times as he tried to question a suspect.

Miss Nemone Lethbridge, defence counsel, said that a trial - expected to take three days - may begin late next month.

HG 28-2-92

Girl in mincer accident has fingers sewn back



● Pcs John Misquitta and David Percival, two of the cops who helped save Sirin's fingers.

THE little girl whose hand was torn off in her father's supermarket meat mincer has had two of her fingers sewn back on.

Surgeons were unable to save five-year-old Sirin Enol's severed hand because it was too badly damaged.

But in a second operation they managed to re-attach two fingers using the latest micro-surgery techniques.

Sirin's hand was severed at the wrist 10 days ago while she visited the Akdeniz cash and carry store in Stoke Newington High Street with her seven-year-old sister and her mother.

This week Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt, Roy Clark, praised the three police officers who acted promptly to give her medical assistance and rush her to hospital.

Pc David Percival retrieved the girl's severed hand from the mincer after she was brought into the police station by her distraught mother, while Pc Laurie Hanley, a medically trained officer, bandaged her hand and Pc John Misquitta gave the ambulance a police escort in a high-speed dash to St Andrews Hospital, Billericay.

"They showed great professionalism and considerable skill," said Chief Supt Clark. "Their prompt action may not have saved her hand, but it at least minimised the invalidity she will suffer."

Hurt pride led man to stab his wife, court told

A HUSBAND suffering from morbid jealousy was cuddling his estranged wife when he took out a knife from his pocket and stabbed her to death at Stoke Newington police station, the Old Bailey heard on Wednesday.

Factory worker Jayanti Patel, 33, showed detectives how he opened a lock knife behind his wife's back as he knelt at her feet in the domestic violence unit, begging her to return to him.

He allegedly said later that she hurt his pride and only married him to enable her to get a boyfriend from India into Britain.

Patel and his 21-year-old wife Vandana had arranged to meet alone in the unit to try and patch things up.

The couple's short, stormy marriage was followed by a separation - which led to Mrs Patel seeking asylum in an Asian women's refuge.

Patel had been unable to face a second failed marriage, the court heard. His first marriage ended in divorce in 1984.

He said he suspected his wife of having affairs with Indian shopkeepers and a factory worker.

He said he once found a picture of a man in her belongings and he admitted



● Vandana Patel - stabbed to death at Stoke Newington police station.

that he always carried a knife. Dr James Turner told the court that he thought Patel was suffering from a mental abnormality, paranoia and delusions.

While in a cell he told a policeman: "I just lose my temper sometimes and cannot control myself. Now it's too late isn't it?"

He added: "I found out she only married me for the papers for her entry into England."

Patel, unemployed, of Hindle House, Arcola Street, Dalston, pleads not guilty to murdering his wife in April last year but admits manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. The prosecution has refused to accept his plea.

● The case continues.

HC 6.3.92

Killing changes police policy on domestic violence

NEW GUIDELINES on the operation of police domestic violence units are expected to be introduced as a result of the inquiry into the murder of Vandana Patel at Stoke Newington police station in north London.

One recommendation of the Metropolitan Police's inquiry into the case, that meetings between physically abused women and their partners should not be allowed on police premises, has already been introduced in the 62 units in London. The other 16 recommendations on minimum staffing levels, training, and supervision are being considered by a force working party established before the murder.

The inquiry concluded that officers involved in the case — who were unaware of Jayantibhai Patel's record of domestic violence and did not search him before leaving him alone with his wife — should not face disciplinary action. "It was just a tragic breakdown of communication," Det Supt Russ Allen, who investigated the murder, said.

The killing involved a sensitive area of police work where the force prides itself on genuine advances in response to public concern. Allegations of domestic violence are now recorded as violent crimes and always investigated; in the past, unless the violence was clearly evident, police viewed such incidents as "domestics" best left for the parties to sort out.

Since the success of the first unit in Tottenham in 1987, similar units have opened throughout London. The two officers on each unit receive special training and are encouraged to forge links with local bodies such as solicitors, social services and the women's refuge movement.

The Patel case affected public confidence and undermined carefully constructed relationships. Women's groups accused the police of a lack of care.

Women applaud sentence

WOMEN in the public gallery at the Old Bailey applauded yesterday as Jayantibhai Patel, 34, of Hackney, east London, was given a life sentence after being convicted of the murder of his wife Vandana, 19, in a domestic violence unit at a police station.

Patel, who had a record of violence against women, stabbed his wife to death with a lock knife he had smuggled into the station to a

meeting arranged by police officers unaware of the background to their relationship.

Mrs Patel came from an Indian village, met her husband through an arranged marriage, and spoke little English. She had been regularly beaten by him during their two-year relationship and had been given a place in a refuge.

Terry Kirby, Crime Correspondent, looks at the case.

The sequence of events which led to Patel, 34, stabbing his wife a dozen times with a lock knife began in October 1990, when officers were called to the Patels' flat in Hackney after neighbours reported sounds of arguments. Patel was cautioned by officers, but no further action was taken.

Early in April 1991, he threw his wife out of their home. On 7 April, Patel was arrested for attacking a family friend while looking for his wife. The trainee detective constable who investigated the case asked a policewoman in the domestic violence unit at Stoke Newington station to help to find a place at a refuge for Mrs Patel, where she moved two days later.

The constable investigated the assault, but could not read Patel's criminal record because it had been temporarily removed from the files at Scotland Yard. The record showed that Patel had two earlier convictions for attacks on his first wife, stabbing and throwing boiling water at her, and one for criminal damage to her home after they had separated.

Three weeks later the refuge asked the unit if the station could facilitate a meeting between the Patels. When Mrs Patel arrived she said she wanted to be left alone with her husband to sort out

their differences. They were left in an adjoining lounge area.

After 20 minutes, one of the unit's two policewomen opened the door to check on them. The Patels, slitting together, signalled they were all right. Five minutes later, alerted by screaming, the policewomen burst in to see Mrs Patel dying on the floor.

Officers acknowledge that although the policewoman who arranged the meeting was not aware of specific allegations of violence or Patel's record, the fact that Mrs Patel had been in a refuge should have sounded alarm bells. By now his criminal record was in Stoke Newington's civilian administration, which was dealing with his assault prosecution, but which knew nothing of the meeting.

Mr Allen said: "We hope this tragic incident will not prevent women from coming forward to report violence in the home."

Insp Shirley Tulloch, the force's co-ordinator on domestic violence, said the working party report was due at the end of the year. "Police officers should never become involved in attempts to reconcile in domestic violence cases. This is a specialist role for which we are not trained and is best left to other more appropriate organisations," she said.

Great-grandmother strip-searched after road accident

Elderly couple sue police for assault

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A GREAT-grandmother was assaulted by a policewoman and her husband manhandled into a police van in his underwear after a minor traffic accident. Croydon county court was told yesterday.

Marie Burke, aged 73, and Edgar Burke, aged 79, of Hackney, east London, are suing the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in a civil action for malicious prosecution, assault, trespass and wrongful arrest. They are claiming exemplary and aggravated damages. The commissioner is denying the charges.

Counsel for the Burkes, Courtney Griffiths, said that a key issue of the case was that the couple were the grandparents of Trevor Monerville, who

has suffered from a blood clot since being arrested by local police in 1987. He had "disappeared" from Stoke Newington police station and was then found in Brixton prison suffering from the clot. On his release Mr Monerville was subjected to a series of controversial arrests.

Mr Griffiths said the jury would be shown a letter from a senior officer at the station which said: "I do hope that this case will not provide additional fodder for those who seek to create trouble between the police and the community."

On the night of January 15 1989, Mrs Burke was being driven in the family car by a friend, George Edwards, when there was an accident and the car went through some railings. No one was injured and they returned to the Burkes' home from where Mr Edwards phoned the police.

When they arrived, said Mr Griffiths, they pushed Mrs Burke aside and went to the bedroom where Mr Burke, who is registered disabled, was sick in bed. He was taken from his bed in long Johns, vest and socks and put in the police van. Mrs Burke went to give Mr Burke his diabetes pills.

"One officer, WPC Tina Martin, assaulted her both physically and shaking her fist in her face," said Mr Griffiths. Mrs Burke was then pulled to the ground by a number of officers in front of her neighbours.

Passers-by who remonstrated with the police were told to "fuck off," said Mr Griffiths. The couple were taken to Hackney police station. Mr Burke was released but Mrs Burke was strip-searched and charged with assaulting WPC Martin. Two days later the charges were dropped.

The case continues.

GUARDIAN 10.3.92

Officers 'assaulted elderly couple'

A 73-YEAR-OLD woman yesterday described how she and her disabled husband were assaulted, abused and humiliated by police officers she had called about a minor road accident.

Marie Burke, who was 70 at the time, said that within minutes of telephoning Hackney police station to report a crash, four officers arrived on her north London doorstep, pushed their way in and dragged her disabled and diabetic husband from his bed.

Wearing only his underwear on a cold January night, Edgar Burke, then 76, was bundled into the back of the police van and taken to Hackney police station.

Mrs Burke told a jury at Croydon County Court that as she rushed to the van, carrying her husband some tablets and water, she was floored by a policewoman, Tina Martin, and then held down

By Heather Mills
Home Affairs Correspondent

in the road by several officers. Later at the police station the same policewoman and another woman police sergeant forced her to strip to the waist.

Mrs Burke said that the incident left her feeling "shocked, ashamed and degraded". She was charged with assaulting PC Martin but it was dropped two days later. Mr Burke, now 79, was released without charge.

The couple are suing the Metropolitan Police Commissioner for the actions of his officers at the couple's house and later at Hackney police station. The couple allege assault, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and trespass. They are seeking exemplary and aggravated damages, claiming

police are continuing to cover-up what happened.

They claim their house was raided because they are the grandparents of Trevor Monerville, a young man who was the subject of several controversial arrests by Stoke Newington and subsequently Hackney police on charges which were either later dropped or of which he was later acquitted. Mr Monerville had been bailed to the Burkes' house.

Courtney Griffiths, for the couple, told the jury to ask themselves why it was that "a straightforward road accident had resulted in about a dozen police officers arriving at their address". They had merely reported that their car, driven by a family friend, George Edwards, had crashed through some railings. No one was injured.

The police are contesting the allegations.

WID 10.3.92

Hackney police face fresh claims

FOUR HACKNEY squatters who claim local police assaulted and tried to frame them using trumped up charges are planning to sue for damages.

Two of the four, Stewart Summers and Clare Holbrook, walked free from Inner London Crown Court last week after being acquitted on charges of affray. The other two, Adam Clothier and Dick Traynor, had previously been cleared of affray and threatening behaviour.

The four will sue the Metropolitan Police for false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and assault.

The case is the latest controversy to dog the police in Hackney and Stoke Newington division, who are facing widespread allegations of assaulting suspects, fabricating evidence and committing perjury. The division has already paid out £82,000 in civil damages for wrongdoing by police since January 1 in four separate cases. They also face 26 other civil actions for compensation.

Summers stood in the dock last week accused of throwing a bottle at policemen after an anti poll tax concert at Chat's Palace, Hackney, in March 1991. Holbrook was alleged to have jumped on a policeman's back to prevent Summers being arrested.

Despite evidence from police at a three-day trial last week, the jury took just 15 minutes to find both defendants not guilty.

Adam Clothier, another of the four, claimed the police's version of what happened outside Chat's Palace, was 'total fabrication'. He accused officers from Hackney police station of lying on oath in court in an attempt to convict the four.

Martin Walker of Hackney Community Defence Association, a local watchdog group, said: 'Hackney police are fast losing credibility because of the number of cases coming to court which are failing and leading to damages against the Metropolitan Police.'

A police spokeswoman said: 'I cannot comment until we have actually received the complaint.'

In a separate incident last week involving tension between squatters and police in Hackney, a man charged with spitting in the face of a policeman was cleared of assaulting the officer. The charge against John Williams was thrown out by Highbury Corner Magistrates Court. *Denis Campbell*



Adam Clothier and Clare Holbrook, who plan to sue Hackney police for damages.

TIME OUT 11.3.92

Group call for an inquiry

AN ASIAN women's group say there should be a public inquiry into the killing of Vandana Patel and officers should be held accountable for her death.

Newham Asian Women's Project, who staged a vigil outside the Old Bailey throughout the trial, say drastic changes should be made to prevent another tragedy.

"The police should be held responsible. The fact is that this was in a police station. There should have been greater protection given to her. She came looking for help. She was left unsupervised with him for 20 minutes. Then officers came back, without an interpreter, and asked if she was alright."

"He could have said anything to her. They went away again and 20 minutes later they returned and found she had been stabbed between 12 and 15 times in the back without anyone hearing a sound," spokesperson Ashika Thanki told the Gazette.

Over 150 members of the group held wreaths and observed a minute's silence outside Stoke Newington police station on the day after the incident, as part of their campaign to change the way domestic attacks are dealt with.

"Police should take immediate action when women come forward suffering from abuse. We want to see more arrests. What we are talking about is criminal assault - police have already got powers to prosecute."

"We also want better protection, more information for women at risk, more money and more advice centres," Ashika added.

Wife killer faces a life jail term

Man poured boiling water over previous partner

A JEALOUS husband who stabbed his wife to death at a police station where they met to discuss their marriage problems has been jailed for life at the Old Bailey.

Jayanti Patel, 33, with a history of violence towards his previous wife and girlfriends, was said by Justice Leonard to be cruelly violent towards women and a dangerous man.

Patel, a factory worker, of Arcola Street, Dalston, was found guilty of murdering his wife, Vandana, 21, at Stoke Newington police station in April last year.

The couple were separated and she stayed at a refuge for Asian battered wives. They agreed to meet at the domestic violence unit at the police station, where a special suite was provided.

But Patel, who was not searched, was armed with a stick knife and had a piece of cannabis with him.

The couple entered the suite and were seated on a sofa while police waited outside.

Suddenly there were screams and the



● Victim Vandana Patel.

officers rushed in to find the wife had been stabbed 12 times in the back, said Jean Southworth, QC, prosecuting.

Patel had denied murder. His plea of manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility was not accepted. He claimed he was suffering from a condition of

morbid jealousy and the effects of drink and cannabis.

He described embracing her before the attack, telling her to come home.

He told police: "Maybe I was scared to lose her. She was my wife and she was mine." He admitted he always carried a knife.

He added: "I just lose my temper sometimes and cannot control myself. She just used me to get British citizenship."

The court heard his first marriage ended in divorce in 1984 and he met Vandana in India when she was 19. There was an arranged marriage with a Hindu ceremony and she later came to Britain. They had another wedding at a registrar office.

He said he suspected she was having affairs with other men and only married to get a passport and one for her boyfriend back in India. The couple had a short, stormy marriage before she left him.

Det Supt Russ Allen said that Patel had stabbed his first wife and poured boiling water over her.

Vandana had left because of violence and jealousy, but agreed to meet him at the police station to discuss things.

Police promise major changes

POLICE have admitted the murder of Vandana Patel was caused by "a communications breakdown" - and have promised changes in the supervision of couples in domestic violence units.

Giving evidence at the Old Bailey trial on Monday, Det Supt Russ Allen said Jayanti Patel's history of violence was not known to the officers in the domestic violence unit at Stoke Newington.

"Of all the thousands of cases we deal with annually this is the only one where there has been a tragic result," he said.

He said it was easy to see with hindsight that Patel was a violent man, but his background "was not known to the people of the domestic violence unit."

"We do our best to treat all cases with compassion. In this case the system failed."

Things went wrong because of a "communications breakdown."

Scotland Yard have now announced changes in the way the units are run. Couples will no longer be left together unsupervised and men will be searched before they are allowed in.

Det Supt Allen told the Old Bailey jury that the Met had started with one domestic violence unit in 1987 and there were now 62.

It was "no mean achievement" and there were 120 officers dealing with matters of domestic violence, with plans for even more.

He urged women not to be put off from using the units by Vandana Patel's murder.

Yardie gun battles often go undetected

Gun battles between rival yardie drug gangs are being waged on Hackney streets, police admit they never try to hear about them!

Many shootings go unreported a detective revealed to Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group at its meeting last week.

Police only find out when a member of the public finds a spent bullet in the street, or one of their informants tells them off.

Two serving Hackney detectives, a former Flying Squad officer and

the other an expert in the Jamaican criminal gangs, made the startling disclosure when they gave a presentation about the criminal use of firearms.

Increasing numbers of high-powered automatic weapons were being carried and used by Yardies dealing in crack and cocaine on Hackney streets, they warned.

Evidence of that was proved last year when police made 60 arrests and seized 20 firearms, along with ammunition and drugs, in an undercover operation.

Det Sgt John Brannan who has been to Jamaica and the States to

study their background and gather intelligence, said: "There are shootings in Hackney which are not reported and which we know nothing about. We only find out when a shell casing is found in the street, or we hear about it some other way."

"These individuals are villains wanted in their own country and the States who come to Hackney for safe haven."

As a result of the undercover operation last year police discovered a criminal network which led back to the United States.

One of those arrested was the book-

keeper for a multi-million-pound drug dealing racket in Miami.

There have been several shootings in recent months, but police have come up against a wall of silence because of the fear the gangs have instilled into the law-abiding West Indian community.

"We had unprecedented public co-operation in the investigation into the murder of popular black musician, Glenroy Abdul, who was shot outside Maxims nightclub in Kingsland Road, Dalston, last year," added Det Sgt Brannan. "The problem is getting witnesses to give evidence in court."

Police chief defends corruption investigation

STOKE NEWINGTON'S top cop has explained why eight of his officers under investigation for alleged corruption have not been suspended from duty.

The eight have been moved to other stations while a top-level inquiry is held into allegations that they dealt in and resold seized drugs.

Chief Supt Roy Clark told last week's Hackney Police Community Consultative Group meeting that officers would face suspension if evidence supported such serious allegations.

"These officers have not been suspended," he said, "so you can assume at the moment there is insufficient

evidence to merit it. It was deemed to be in the best interests of the officers concerned and the investigating officer to transfer them to other stations while the inquiry is conducted."

He told the meeting that the eight deserve the right of any individual to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. It should also be remembered, he said, that the allegations were being made by self-confessed drug dealers.

Hackney councillor Ken Hanson said that if such a serious complaint was made against council staff they would be suspended automatically while it was investigated.

Chief Supt Clark said that any decision to suspend a police officer would be taken by the Deputy Assistant Commissioner. "If every time an officer who had a complaint made against them was suspended," he said, "the public would be policing themselves."

Family reject police pay-out

THE grandparents of Trevor Monerville have rejected an out-of-court offer of £17,000 from the Metropolitan Police in connection with an early-morning police raid on their house in Richmond Road, Dalston, two years ago.

Mr Monerville is a Stamford Hill electrician who suffered brain damage following his arrest by Dalston police. Marie and Edgar Burke are suing the police for assault and false arrest.

The case is expected to continue into next week at Croydon Crown Court.

HG 15-J-92

COPS FACE MINDLESS VIOLENCE

HACKNEY'S police are facing an increased threat of violence and injury from mentally ill people living in the community, a top cop has warned.

The warning comes as rising numbers of mentally ill people are being discharged from institutions as part of a policy to re-integrate them into society.

More than 20 police officers from Stoke Newington have been hurt on duty and many have been injured restraining dangerously disturbed individuals needing psychiatric treatment.

In one case, a naked man went berserk with a knife while another had to be disarmed wielding an iron bar five-feet long.

Incidents involving danger-

by RUSS LAWRENCE

ous and often violent mentally disturbed people are becoming more frequent, Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clark, told Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group.

He listed a random sample of incidents his officers had dealt with in the past two

months and said it demonstrated society's failings in the treatment of the mentally ill.

Police had to wear protective body armour to disarm the man with the iron bar at his flat in Sigdon Road, Stoke Newington. He had smashed a hole in his ceiling and was trying to prise up the floorboards of the flat above. On the same day, police officers were called to a house in Beatty Road where the occupier had taken an overdose. He refused help and bit and fought police.

Three days later, a woman walked into the front office of Stoke Newington police station after slashing both her wrists.

Police officers again had to wear protective clothing when called to Brodia Road, where a man was standing naked at his first-floor window throwing furniture into the street and brandishing a knife.

Police were also called to Neville Road, where the occupier had bolted himself in another person's flat and was threatening to harm himself.

They had to talk down a man already undergoing psychiatric treatment from the

roof of a building in Upper Clapton Road. The man also had a knife.

Two weeks ago police were called to Dalston Kingsland railway station, where a man was lying between the tracks hitting himself on the head with stones.

And two days later they went to Spring Lane, Upper Clapton, where a naked man was threatening to throw himself into the River Lea.

Chief Supt Clark said that if it is obvious people are mentally ill, they are taken to the psychiatric unit at Homerton Hospital rather than the police station.

'Sympathy'

"We have sympathy for these people, but it is happening daily in Hackney and is a problem for society as a whole and not just the police," he added.

Hackney's branch of the mental health charity MIND said it had noticed an increase in people suffering mental distress because of problems with homelessness, unemployment and stress caused by financial worries.

"After-care support and community facilities for former long-stay mental patients are totally inadequate," said secretary Roger Harris.

A dangerous and preposterous myth

THE report in the Hackney Gazette (February 28) headlined "MPs back anti-racist launch" is offensive. The myth that local police as an agency attack black people is as preposterous and dangerous as the myth that black people are habitually engaged in robbing others at knife-point in the streets of Hackney.

If it is true that our local MPs contend, as the report suggests, that local police do behave in this fashion, then God help us all!

My police officers at Hackney (and I know the same is true of Stoke Newington) work hard to combat racial attacks in the borough. When all the hot air of political gimmickry is dissipated, police are the only true 24-hour, 365-days-of-the-year agency that can actually impact this insidious problem. Try ringing some of the other groups outside normal office hours and you will get an answering machine.

The sooner these groups in the borough realise that police have a positive role to play in dealing with racial attacks and that education, co-operation and carefully-considered joint action is more effective than rhetoric, the sooner real progress will be made - if, indeed, that is truly what these people seek, which must be questionable.

For the record, local police are working with Hackney Council and other agencies to set up a joint initiative to combat racial attacks. From such small seedling beginnings, mighty oaks can grow if they are not stamped upon while still small by irresponsible comments from those who should know better. - BERNARD TAFFS, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT, HACKNEY AND CITY ROAD POLICE STATIONS.

HC 13-3-92

Grandmother awarded £50,000 for police assault

A GREAT grandmother yesterday won £50,000 damages from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner after a jury found that she had been assaulted, falsely imprisoned and maliciously prosecuted following a minor traffic accident.

Croydon County Court was told that Marie Burke, 73, had been pulled to the ground by a woman police constable and held down in front of her home in Hackney, east London, after she went to help her disabled husband. Her counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, said the police conduct had been calculated to "humiliate and distress". "These officers behaved in an arbitrary, oppressive and unconstitutional way," he said.

In one of the highest damages awards against the police, the jury decided that Mrs Burke should be paid £20,000 in compensation for

the assault, £15,000 for false imprisonment and another £15,000 for the malicious prosecution.

However, the jurors dismissed a civil action by Mrs Burke's husband, Edgar, 79, who said he too had been falsely imprisoned and assaulted. The jury also rejected a claim by Mr and Mrs Burke that police officers had entered their home without permission.

Afterwards, the Burkes' solicitor, Raju Bhatt, said in a statement: "It has become clear that a 70-year-old woman was maliciously accused of an offence which she had not committed.

By Adam Sage
Legal Affairs Reporter

This was done to cover up for an unlawful and brutal assault on her by officers in Hackney."

Mr Bhatt said the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, against whom the action had been brought, had given no cause for any confidence to be shown "in his ability or willingness to deal with police misconduct".

Those officers responsible for the "wrongdoing" were "serving police officers on our streets to this day. One hopes that the Com-

missioner will not now leave those officers as they are".

The court heard that in January 1989, Mrs Burke and a family friend, George Edwards, were involved in an accident in the Burkes' car. No one was injured and they returned home to report the incident.

The plaintiff claimed that when police arrived, they pushed past Mrs Burke and then wrongly arrested her husband, dragging him outside in only his long-johns, vest and socks. However, the jury accepted police arguments that they had acted correctly towards Mr Burke.

The decision was altogether different in respect of Mrs Burke. She had gone outside with a jug and diabetes pill for her husband, only to be wrestled to the ground by an officer, WPC Tina Martin, the court was told.

"A lot of people held me down - my dress was over my head," Mrs Burke had told the court.

A passer-by supported Mrs Burke's story, saying she had been pinned to the edge of the pavement by three officers who "deliberately tried to inflict as much pain as possible".

Mrs Burke was taken to Hackney police station, searched and then prosecuted for assault. But this charge, which was dropped two days later had been brought maliciously by WPC Tina Martin, the jury decided by a majority of seven to one.

Further cases in area dogged by brutality claims

AT THE back of Croydon County Court, Jeffrey Eaton had a special interest in what befell Edgar and Marie Burke after they alerted police to a minor road accident.

For he too alleges he has been the victim of injustice at the hands of the police in the deprived inner city Hackney area of London. Mr Eaton, 30, claims "the shit was literally kicked out of me" after he and a friend Michael Lavery, 31, were originally arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

Rafael Joseph, from Aden, was also present during the nine-day case. Caught after failing to stop for driving the wrong way down a one-way system, he alleges he was so badly beaten up by officers, that he was taken to hospital with serious head injuries which rendered him unconscious. Alongside him

in the public gallery was Rudolf Hawkins, a 36-year-old bricklayer. He claims to have suffered a broken hand and head injuries when officers truncheoned him.

Encouraged by the £50,000 award to Mrs Burke, they are suing the Metropolitan Police Commissioner over the alleged actions of his officers. The damages have rekindled demands for a judicial inquiry into policing in the area of north London which incorporates Hackney, Stoke Newington and City Road stations.

Payments in civil claims from the area have already totalled more than £100,000 so far this year. Last month, as part of a major investigation into police corruption, eight officers were moved amid allegations of involvement in drug deals, prompting Brian

By Heather Mills
Home Affairs Correspondent

Sedgemore, the defending Labour candidate for Hackney South and Shoreditch, to raise the issue in the House of Commons. The murder of Vandana Patel by her husband in the domestic violence unit at Stoke Newington police station, where she had sought a safe place to meet him, did nothing to bolster confidence in the force.

The area has long been dogged by allegations from certain sections of the community of police brutality, oppression, indifference to the welfare of prisoners, and racism. There are currently 26 civil cases involving officers in the area and a report by the Hackney Community Defence Committee,

a local legal campaigning group, details 143 cases it has taken up in the last three years. Forty allegations have been brought to its attention in the last four weeks.

Graham Smith, the committee's secretary, alleges that these are not isolated cases. He claims that policing in the area is "violent and oppressive". The committee's report, *A Crime is a Crime is a Crime*, has been submitted to the Royal Commission investigating the criminal justice system. Two of the commission members have met the defence committee.

However, Supt Douglas West, deputy in charge at Stoke Newington, said he believed that officers were "more sinned against than sinning".

He rejected calls for an inquiry, pointing out that at Stoke New-

ington alone, officers carry out between 7,000 and 8,000 arrests every year and very few result in allegations against the police. Even fewer are substantiated. The burden of proof in civil claims is less than in criminal trials or in police disciplinary actions, he said.

Neither did he accept that there was widespread concern about policing in the area. He said most residents were content and most of the cases raised by the defence committee remained unproven allegations.

Mr West added: "But we do not condone wrongdoing. Any criminal activity on the part of any officers will be pursued within the full rigours of the law." However, he agreed that the stations had had perhaps more than their share of *cause célèbres*.

IND. 20-J-92

Woman, 73 wins £50,000 against Met

Paul Myers
and Duncan Campbell

A WOMAN of 73 who was assaulted by police, falsely imprisoned and maliciously prosecuted was yesterday awarded a total of £50,000 damages.

Marie Burke was pulled to the ground and held there by three police officers after she tried to give her disabled husband his diabetes tablets when he was arrested following a minor traffic accident.

Mrs Burke, who suffers from arthritis, was taken to Hackney police station, searched and charged with assaulting a woman police constable.

Although the charges against her were dropped two days after the incident in January 1989, she decided to sue the police.

Her award, made up of £15,000 for false imprisonment, £20,000 for assault and £15,000 for malicious prosecution, is one of the highest against the Metropolitan Police.

Courtenay Griffiths, representing Mrs Burke, told Croydon county court she had suffered "humiliation and distress".

The Burkes' car with Mrs Burke in it was being driven by a family friend, George Edwards, when it veered off the road, crashed through railings and ended in a pond. No one was hurt. They returned to the Burkes' home in Hackney, from where Mr Edwards phoned the police.

When the police arrived, the Burkes claimed, the officers accused Mr Burke, who was ill in bed, of being the driver. They arrested him in his vest and long johns.

When Mrs Burke intervened, she was assaulted by PC Tina Martin, the court was told, and

manhandled to the ground in front of her neighbours. At the police station, Mrs Burke was charged with assault. Mr Burke was not charged.

Mr Griffiths told the court this was a clear case of assault, wrongful arrest, trespass and malicious prosecution.

The police claimed the events were completely different. They had had a report of an accident in which the driver had left the scene. They had been called to the Burkes' home and believed Mr Burke had been driving the crashed car. He was suspected of drink-driving and was asked to take a test.

He refused to take a test and was "gently" persuaded to go to the police station, police said. Mrs Burke assaulted PC Martin by smashing a jug over her, the court was told.

The case became a *cause celebre* in Hackney, where there has been antagonism between the police and parts of the black community for several years.

The Burkes are the grandparents of Trevor Monerville, who was arrested by Stoke Newington police in 1987 and only traced four days later, to Brixton prison, where he was found to have a blood clot on his brain.

He had to undergo surgery, which has left him with loss of memory and vision and with fits. On his release, he was arrested on a series of occasions in controversial circumstances. In 1988, he was cleared at Snaresbrook crown court of attempted robbery and assault on a police officer. Nine other charges against him were dropped.

The Hackney Community Defence Association took up the Burkes' case, and has campaigned over it for three years.

The result of the case is unlikely to ease relations in Hackney. A number of other civil actions against police in the area are pending.

GUARDIAN 20.3.92

Pensioner wins police damages

A PENSIONER who was assaulted by police, falsely imprisoned and maliciously prosecuted was yesterday awarded £50,000 damages — one of the biggest awards against the force.

Mrs Marie Burke, 73, a great-grandmother and arthritis sufferer, was pulled to the ground and held there by three police officers after she tried to give her disabled husband his diabetes tablets when he was arrested following a minor traffic accident.

Mrs Burke, who had sued the Metropolitan Commissioner of Police, was taken to Hackney police station, east London, searched and charged with assaulting a woman constable, Croydon County Court heard.

The charge was dropped two days later.

Mr Courtenay Griffiths, for Mrs Burke, told the jury she suffered "humiliation and distress". The officers involved had behaved in an "arbitrary, oppressive and unconstitutional" way.

Mr Griffiths said: "You may feel the Commissioner must be forced on the size of the award to view this occurrence with the seriousness it deserves. By your award you should say you are sick and tired of police officers coming to court and lying to juries."

The jury decided Mrs Burke was entitled to £20,000 for being assaulted, £15,000 for false imprisonment and £15,000 for malicious prosecution.

But the jury of four women and four men rejected damages claims that police had

trespassed in the couple's home, assaulted Mrs Burke's husband Edgar, 79, and falsely imprisoned him.

The couple, married for 44 years, told the nine-day hearing that their house in Richmond Road, Hackney, was raided by police in January 1989 shortly after the accident was reported to them.

But they claimed the raid was really carried out because their grandson had been the subject of a number of controversial arrests.

Mrs Burke told the court that after her husband, who walks with a stick, had been led to a prison van in his underwear she went to take him his medicine.

But PC Tina Martin, whom the jury found had lied when she claimed Mrs Burke had attacked her with a jug, pulled the elderly woman to the ground.

After the hearing Mr Raju Bhatt, the couple's solicitor, said the case had undermined confidence in the Commissioner's ability or willingness to deal with police misconduct. He said he had set out to defend the actions of his officers and had offered not one word of apology.

DAILY
TELEGRAPH

Marie, 73 assaulted by police

POLICE were ordered to pay damages of £50,000 yesterday following an assault on a great-grandmother.

Mrs. Marie Burke, an arthritis sufferer, was pulled to the ground by a police woman and pinned down by three other officers in a raid on her home, Croydon County Court was told.

But all Mrs Burke, 73, of Hackney, East London, wanted to do was pass some diabetes tablets to husband Edgar, 79, who had been arrested following a minor traffic offence.

DAILY
EXPRESS

Victim, 73, gets £50,000

Police to pay for attack on grandmother

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A WOMAN aged 73 has won one of the highest damages awards made against the police after a court was told that officers had behaved in an "arbitrary, oppressive and unconstitutional" way.

Marie Burke, a great grandmother with arthritis, was awarded damages totalling £50,000 after being assaulted by police, falsely imprisoned and maliciously prosecuted. Mrs Burke, of Hackney, east London, had sued the Metropolitan Commissioner over her treatment.

She had been pulled to the ground and held down by three police officers after she tried to give her disabled hus-

band Edgar, aged 79, his diabetes tablets when he was arrested over a minor traffic accident. Croydon crown court was told.

Mrs Burke was taken to Hackney police station, searched and charged with assaulting a woman police constable. The charge was dropped two days later.

Courtenay Griffiths, for Mrs Burke, said she had suffered humiliation and distress and had been obliged to bring the civil action to get justice. The police officers had behaved in an "arbitrary, oppressive and unconstitutional" way.

He told the jury: "By your award you should say you are sick and tired of police officers coming to court and lying to juries."

The jury awarded Mrs Burke £20,000 for the assault, £15,000 for false imprisonment and £15,000 for malicious prosecution. However it rejected a claim that police had trespassed in the couple's home, assaulted her husband and falsely imprisoned him.

The couple said during the nine-day hearing that their house was raided by police in January 1989 shortly after the accident. Mrs Burke said that after her husband had been led to a prison van in his underwear she went to take him his medicine.

WPC Tina Martin, whom the jury found had lied when she claimed Mrs Burke had attacked her with a jug, pulled the woman to the ground.

After the hearing Raju Bhatt, the couple's solicitor, said that the case had undermined confidence in the commissioner's ability to deal with police misconduct. He had set out to defend the actions of his officers and had offered not one word of apology.

28 cops
raided
gran, 73

A GREAT-grandmother who was assaulted when 28 police officers raided her home won £50,000 damages yesterday.

Marie Burke, 73, was attacked as she tried to give her disabled husband his diabetes tablets when he was arrested after a minor traffic accident.

Three officers pulled the arthritic old lady to the ground and shoved her spine against the kerb.

Mrs Burke, of Hackney, East London, was later charged with assaulting a WPC. Croydon County Court heard. But the charge was dropped two days later.

The damages, against the Metropolitan Police, were awarded for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

MIRROR

TIMES

Gran wins police suit

AN ARTHRITIC great-grandmother who was assaulted by police, falsely imprisoned and maliciously prosecuted was awarded £50,000 damages yesterday.

It is one of the highest awards made against police.

Marie Burke, 73, of Hackney, East London, sued the Metropolitan Police Commissioner after three officers held her to the ground when she tried to give her disabled husband his diabetes tablets.

He had just been arrested after a minor car accident. Passer-by Chandler Gieke told Croydon County Court: "They were inflicting as much pain as possible."

TODAY

20.3.92

40

Armed police fear for public safety as training budget is halved

ARMED police based in Hackney fear they and the public are at risk from pistol-packing gangsters after senior officers decided to slash training by half to save money.

Special Armed Response Vehicles patrol London 24 hours a day, ready to tackle any emergency involving guns — such as a terrorist raid or a hostage situation — immediately.

The cars carry a deadly arsenal of automatic weapons in the boot, including powerful SAS-style Heckler and Koch carbines, and are based at the rear of Old Street magistrates' court in Shoreditch, together with the elite "blue beret" police PT17 firearms squad.

The specialist unit was set up in July last year, but now the vast majority of the officers manning the vehicles are up in arms themselves.

Trouble was sparked by a controversial decision by police chiefs to cut their training by over 50 per cent at less than 17 days' notice. Forty-seven of the stunned firearms experts have written to the Metropolitan Police newspaper *The Job* in a rare public display of outrage.

Pc Edward Deans demanded to know the reason for the cut, "at a time of rising public concern about the use of firearms by police and the ever-increasing use of weapons by criminals."

He went on: "This has happened almost overnight and without any thought as to the effect this will have on the safety, morale and welfare of the officers concerned."

"No-one employed on the Armed Re-

by STEWART FOWLER

sponse Vehicles was asked for their views.

"The new training rota does not allow the relief to train together as a whole, and yet the past six months' operational experience has shown that team work is essential in any firearms situation."

In just six months, the specialist unit answered 2,856 emergency calls in which firearms were thought to be involved.

The man responsible for the cuts,

Chief Supt Rick Johnson, replied: "I understand the frustration of the officers associated with this letter, especially as I introduced the training programme and now have to reduce it."

And he explained that the problem "is that a much larger number of officers will be required to be trained."

"They cannot be trained to the same level as previously in PT17 as there are not the financial resources or facilities to maintain that degree of training," he added.

"Very reluctantly, therefore, the training had to be reduced."

Cops set up shop in drugs territory

A FATAL shot has been fired at drug dealers on the notorious Haggerston Estate with the opening of a police "cop shop" just yards from where junkies gather to buy narcotics.

The borough's top cop, Chief Supt Bernard Taffs, from Hackney police station, and the mayor, Cllr Gerry Ross, officially open the shop today (Friday).

Once a florist's, the building now aims to be a thorn in the side of the dealers and has been given a complete facelift and refit costing £30,000.

It's the idea of Hackney's police community liaison officer, Inspector Howard Back, and Haggerston councillor Simon Matthews, who came up with the scheme after repeated complaints from nearby residents that their estate had become a haven for drug users and dealers.

City Road police then got together with Hackney Council, who offered a five-year lease on the shop rent-free.

"The Haggerston estate is a known haunt for drug dealers," said Insp Back. "Originally, the shop was a direct response to that problem after residents expressed their concern."

"However, we also see the shop as a place where the community, which has a multi-ethnic mix, can go for help and advice."

by STEWART FOWLER

And Hackney Council leader John McCallery added: "It is our firm belief that partnership between local people, the police and the council is the key to beating crime in Hackney."

"The new police shop shows the partnership at work in a very practical way. I hope that it will help people in the Haggerston area to feel more secure in their daily lives."

Two Home Beat officers, Pcs Maria Gray and Graham Bell, will staff the office at 228 Haggerston Road from midday to 2pm, Monday to Saturday.

Man dies after being rushed to hospital from police station

FATHER-OF-THREE Brian McKerr died hours after being arrested by police who found him staggering in the street outside a pub in the early hours of the morning.

Mr McKerr, 46, of Queensbridge Road, Haggerston, died in the intensive care unit at Bart's Hospital after being rushed there from cells at City Road police station.

Cops reckon he had been on a mammoth drinking binge and officers gave him heart massage and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when they found him slumped in the cell struggling to breathe.

And this week the station's top cops scotched a national newspaper report that Mr McKerr had been unconscious when he was taken into custody, and emphasised that officers checked on him every 30 minutes.

He was arrested shortly before 1am on Sunday outside the Middleton Arms in Queensbridge Road, Haggerston.

"He was staggering about outside the pub and when officers went up to him he couldn't stand," said Det Insp Bill Smith, of City Road police.

Routine checks

"But when he was taken into police custody he was definitely not unconscious. We carried out our routine check on him every half-an-hour and he was sleeping and mumbling. We believe he had been a heavy drinker for some time."

"At 4.25am, officers couldn't rouse Mr McKerr and he seemed to be having difficulty breathing. They tried heart massage and mouth-to-mouth and then called an ambulance."

Divorced Mr McKerr died just before noon at Bart's and the results of a post-mortem examination will be revealed next week.

The shocked landlady at the Middleton Arms, Lucille Woolridge, said: "He was a regular and I was very sad to hear of his death."

"We'll miss him as he was harmless and a good laugh. He hadn't been drinking at the pub that evening. He was drunk outside at about 8pm."

"It was raining, so we brought him in and he fell asleep on a couch."

An inquest was opened and adjourned on Tuesday. Mr McKerr's funeral takes place in Nottingham next Tuesday.

HQ 20.3.92

Mick swaps the beat for the bait!

AFTER 31 years of nabbing the felons of Hackney, Mick O'Pray has decided to turn his hand to catching fish.

The veteran cop, who has spent his entire career on the streets of Hackney, has gone back to his native Scarborough in York-

shire to devote more time to his favourite pastime.

"I shall do a lot of fishing until the pubs open and then do some drinking," he said.

Mick came to Hackney at the tender age of 22 straight from training college and he

was soon in the thick of things, whether it was battling with fascists in Ridley Road, saving a dying man or disarming gunmen at Old Street.

"I used to patrol Ridley Road on Sundays and there was always a punch-up when the British Movement had a meeting," he laughed.

"I got a commendation for saving the life of a bloke in Kingsland High Street who knifed himself. I brought him round and managed to keep his heart going."

"And I got another commendation for taking guns off two jewellery shop raiders in an E-type Jag at Old Street roundabout," he said.



● Chief Supt Bernard Taffs of Hackney police station says farewell to Mick O'Pray.

Seized petrol bombs were being stored up for estates' gang fight

A CACHE of 19 petrol bombs was seized by police before they could be used in a fight between rival gangs from two council estates.

The discovery prevented incidents which could have had terrifying results, the Old Bailey was told.

The bombs were found hidden in a kids' play area near Rhodes House on the Provost Estate, Murray Grove, Hoxton.

The bottles of petrol — nine of them with wicks made from rag — were in a milk crate with a petrol container, the court heard.

Ronald Wood, now 17, of Pitfield Street, Hoxton, was convicted of having the bombs under his control in September last year.

He had pleaded not guilty. Recorder Brian Higgs, QC, remanded him for various reports.

The court was told there had been trouble between the Murray Grove youths and their rivals from the Whitecross Estate in Whitecross

Street, Finsbury, after a youth was beaten up. A message had been received that the Whitecross crowd would be arriving for a battle that Saturday night.

Wood told police that the Murray Grove gang agreed to arm themselves with the petrol bombs "for protection," the prosecution counsel said.

Wood bought the petrol from a garage in Old Street and helped to fill bottles before hiding them.

"He said they feared that their group would be outnumbered and the bombs were to be thrown in front of the rivals to scare them away," counsel said.

The youth was not the only one to have been involved in making and storing the bombs — the others had not been arrested.

The discovery came after reports of repeated clashes between the two rival gangs. There had been other incidents and police were keeping a close watch on the situation.

RANSACKED!

A top cop has taken flowers and chocolates to a mum's Hackney home after armed police held her family at gunpoint and raided their house in a massive siege.

Sylvia Howe and her family were ordered out of the house in their nighties and pyjamas and her son handcuffed during the raid last Tuesday morning.

Guns were ordered her 13-year-old daughter to put her hands in the air as she stood outside barefoot in a tiny nightdress.

Police helicopters and a squad from Scotland Yard's firearms unit swooped on the house in Oswald Street after a tip off that an armed man, believed to be known by the family, was holding someone hostage. Police found nothing.

Head of Hackney division Chief Supt Bernard Taffs personally delivered a bunch of flowers and chocolates to Mrs Howe last Friday. Police have also issued an apology

BY MICHELLE TAVERNER

following the raid.

Devastated Mrs Howe, who lives with her two daughters Nicola and Jackie, 17, her

son Simon, 21, and her husband Ken, who was at work when the raid happened, said this week: "It was the worst day of my life. I thought I was going to die."

"They were pointing guns at all of us and treating us like criminals. We were only having breakfast. We are a normal decent family who have never done anything criminal and now people pass us on the street."

WRECKED

The family's house was also damaged during the raid. A child's dolls house was destroyed, doors kicked in and mirrors smashed. Police have offered to pay for any damage.

Mrs Howe said: "No apologies can ever make things right. I know they have a job to do but Nicola is just 13. Our lives have been ruined. There was no need to point a gun at a little girl."

The family are considering taking legal action.

Chief Supt Bernard Taffs at Hackney police said: "I am sorry for the distress caused to Mrs Howe and her family. I am not ashamed

that I took flowers and chocolates round to her. I took them myself because I understand that some sensibilities might have been bruised."

"We thought there was someone there with

a gun, someone potentially dangerous, and when things don't turn out quite how we expect we try to act in a human way."

"If you had asked me at the time whether we acted appropriately I

would say yes."

He added: "When you are in an armed situation then you act in a different way to how you would act in a situation where there is a dispute between a man and wife."

Above and right: The wreckage of two wardrobes with the Howe family in front of one of them.



Mrs Howe and daughter Nicola with the remains of the doll's house



E. LOWMAN ADVERTISER
20.3.92

Assault police cleared

Scotland Yard has announced that no action is to be taken against officers found by a jury at Croydon county court to have assaulted and falsely im-

prisoned great-grandmother Marie Burke, aged 73, of Hackney, east London, who was this week awarded £50,000 damages against the Metropolitan Police.

GUARDIAN

Assault case police face no action

NO ACTION is to be taken against police officers found by a jury to have assaulted and falsely imprisoned a 73-year-old grandmother, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

Marie Burke sued the Metropolitan Police in a civil claim for damages and was awarded a total of £50,000 — £20,000 for assault, £15,000 for false imprisonment and £15,000 for malicious prosecution — by Croydon County Court

on Thursday. The court was told she was pulled to the ground and held there by three police officers after she tried to give her disabled husband his diabetes tablets when he was arrested following a minor traffic accident.

Mrs Burke was then taken to Hackney police station, searched and charged with assaulting a woman police constable. The charge was dropped two days later. The police claimed a differ-

ent version of events and accused Mrs Burke of assaulting the woman officer by smashing a jug over her.

A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said: "The matter has been investigated by the Complaints Investigation Bureau and no allegations against officers were substantiated."

She said the case would not be reviewed in the light of Thursday's decision.

IND

21-3-92

GRANNY-BASHERS!

Elderly victim of vicious assault wins £50,000 from the Met

A 73-year old great-grandmother who was assaulted by the police has been awarded £50,000, one of the highest damages payments paid out by The Met.

By Deborah Ward

"The price of this achievement has been costly. These two elderly pensioners have had to endure humiliation and degradation inflicted deliberately upon them by officers from Hackney Police.

They have also wondered, if they can treat elderly people in such an outrageous and unforgivable manner how do they treat people younger than themselves?"

The £50,000 won by the couple brings the total sum of damages awarded against the Hack-

ney and Stoke Newington police in 1992 alone to £132,000.

The Hackney Community Defence Association, which supported the Burkes throughout the trial, said it believed the assault was racially motivated. Spokesman Graham Smith told The Voice: "I have never heard of anything like this happening to a White couple."

The association is now calling for an judicial inquiry into the misconduct of the police force in the area.

St Lucian-born Marie Burke and her husband Edgar, 79, were the victims of police brutality three years ago when officers from Hackney police station in east London stormed their home after they were involved in a minor traffic accident.

The jury at Croydon County Court, south London, heard how officers raided the couple's Hackney home and arrested disabled Mr Burke, who was lying sick in bed.

They then dragged him semi-naked to a police van before taking him to Hackney police station.



HOUSE: Where the elderly couple were brutally assaulted by the police.

Distressed Mrs Burke ran to her husband's assistance with tablets and water, but was violently pushed to the ground by WPC Tina Martin, a martial arts expert. Mrs Burke was then arrested and taken to the police station. There, she was put through a humiliating strip-search ordeal and charged with assaulting a police officer. Two days later the charges were dropped.

Malicious

The court found that Mrs Burke had been viciously assaulted, falsely imprisoned and maliciously prosecuted and decided that Mrs Burke should receive £20,000 for the assault, £15,000 for the false imprisonment and another £15,000 for the malicious prosecution.

Barrister Courtenay Griffiths said that the compensation sum highlighted the extent of police dishonesty and incompetence.

Speaking on behalf of the Burkes, solicitor Raju Dhatt said: "The price of this achievement

Continued on page 3

VOICE 24.3.92

Gun police say it with flowers

Andrew Millington

THE Metropolitan Police has presented flowers and chocolates to an east London family who were ordered out of their home in their nightclothes at gunpoint.

Two officers went to the house in Hackney after a tip-off that an armed man was inside holding hostages.

Members of the Howe family denied a gunman was present but within an hour the Tactical Firearms Unit surrounded the house in Oswald Street.

Sylvia Howe, 48, who has a heart condition, and her

three children, Simon, 21, who suffers from cerebral palsy, Jacqueline, 17, and Nicola, 13, were ordered out of the house by armed officers who then searched their home, damaging furniture.

They were told to place their hands on their heads and then taken to police vehicles in Millfield Street.

Senior officers have written to apologise to Mrs Howe and presented her with chocolates and flowers.

She said: "This whole thing has been like torture. First we were thought to have been hostages, then we were treated like criminals. None of us has ever been in trouble with the police."

"There has got to be something done. You do not hold a 13-year-old girl at gunpoint."

"It is so distressing. None of us can sleep. My son is a bundle of nerves and my daughter won't go to school."

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "It was upsetting for the people concerned and we regret that. We received information and we have to act on that. If we did not we would soon be criticised."

He said the two uniformed officers who went to the house after the tip-off said they thought the family had indicated by sign language that an armed man was upstairs.

GUARDIAN

25-3-92

Race relations and the police

HARD on the heels of the Chief Constable of Strathclyde's racist remarks at a cricket club dinner comes the news that no action is going to be taken against the Hackney police officers who cost the Metropolitan Police £50,000 in damages last week (Guardian, March 20 and 21). The amount could doubtless be doubled or tripled if the legal costs are taken into account.

The Metropolitan Commissioner Sir Peter Imbert has constantly said he wants racism eradicated from the police. These sentiments were expressed most recently in a follow-up TV programme to the "Black in Blue" series earlier last year. But if officers whom a county court jury clearly believed are guilty of assault and false imprisonment of an elderly woman escape without punishment, what is the only conclusion we can draw? It

must be that police officers are free to practice racist, rude and violent behaviour, not to mention implied perjury, as they please and get away with it.

It is fervently to be hoped that, whichever party is elected to government in the General Election, they are willing to take on this issue with the police, and to demand that officers found guilty by the courts in such a case are at least severely disciplined, if not dismissed. Then we might get the kind of behaviour both black and white people are entitled to expect from the police service we pay for.

Then also Sir Peter Imbert might get, and keep, more of the black officers he claims that he so much desires.

(Rev) David Haslam,
Council of Churches for
Britain & Ireland,
Inter-Church House,
London SE1.

GUARDIAN 27.3.92

We regret what happened, admits top cop

HACKNEY'S top cop, Chief Supt Bernard Taffe, said he was not proud of the case and regretted that Mrs Burke was arrested and brought to the station.

But he said there was a danger it could be seen by the public as "symptomatic of a malaise among Hackney police."

He added: "This was an isolated incident that happened three years ago. I am not trying to make excuses, but we try to do the best we can under difficult circumstances."

"We obviously regret such cases which give grounds for a complaint and in this case great sympathy and compassion was shown by officers to Mr and Mrs Burke on the night this happened, and officers at the court expressed compassion for Mrs Burke."

"It should be remembered that over 17 police officers gave evidence. And the majority of police evidence about the behaviour of officers that night was supported by the jury. It was some aspects of the case which involved Mrs Burke and Pc Tina Martin which the jury found un-

reasonable.

"Individuals are frequently called upon to make difficult decisions when under pressure or alone and sometimes those involved in that decision-making may not make the right decision," he added.

"Senior officers at the station decided not to proceed with charges against the couple. That decision might be interpreted as an admission of poor behaviour, when really it was a brave decision on the part of senior officers who were saying 'here is an elderly lady and we don't want to be seen to pursue this to the bitter end'."

"At Hackney and City Road we deal with over 10,000 custody cases every year and out of those only a very small proportion make a complaint."

"Over the past two years every single officer and civilian has been to a Met Police Plus Seminar with the objective of analysing their attitudes and the manner of how they do their job. Also to reflect on our statement of common purposes which are the principles of policing to which we strive to adhere."

Grandmother wins £50,000 police payout

A GRANDMOTHER of 73 was awarded £50,000 in damages from the police after a jury heard how three officers pinned the arthritic old lady to the ground, causing her spine to bang against a kerb.

The payout - one of the biggest awards against the force - was made after Marie Burke sued the Metropolitan Police in a civil action.

She was assaulted as she went to give her disabled husband, Edgar, his diabetes tablets as he was laid in his underpants to a police van following a raid by 28 police officers on their home in Richmond Road, Dalston, in January 1989. Police had gone there to arrest him after a minor traffic accident.

Mrs Burke was taken to Hackney police station where she was searched and later charged with assaulting a woman constable. Police claimed Mrs Burke had smashed a jug over the head of Pc Tina Martin, but two days later the charge was dropped.

The couple, married for 44 years, claimed during the nine-day hearing at Croydon County Court, that police really carried out the raid because Mrs Burke's grandson, Trevor Manservant, had been the subject of a number of controversial arrests.

The jury of four men and four women decided Mrs Burke was entitled to £20,000 for being assaulted, £15,000 for false imprisonment and £15,000 for malicious prosecution.

But they rejected claims that police had trespassed

in the couple's home, assaulted Mrs Burke's husband, Edgar, and falsely imprisoned him.

This week the couple's solicitor, Raja Bhatt, blamed the lack of effective and independent machinery to deal with police malpractice for forcing two old people to bear the burden of bringing the police officers to account for their misconduct.

And he accused the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, of defending the actions of his officers and of not offering one word of apology.

"People should not need recourse to the civil courts," he said. "The job of bringing officers to account for misconduct should be the responsibility of the chief of police."

Police will not be taking action against those officers involved, a Scotland Yard spokesperson said.

"The matter has been investigated by the Complaints Investigation Bureau and no allegations against officers were substantiated. The case will not be reviewed in the light of the court's decision."

The police watchdog group, Hackney Community Defence Association, said the £50,000 payout to Mrs Burke brought to £132,000 the total damages awarded against Hackney and Stoke Newington police in the first three months of this year.

"Apart from the damages there are also the legal costs which have to be paid out from the public purse," said spokesperson Graham Smith, "and those must total £250,000."

Ex-offender to sue after night in custody

A MAN who set up hostels for ex-convicts in Hackney is suing police after he was arrested and kept in custody overnight at Stoke Newington police station, before being released the following day without charge.

Willie Shilleto - a reformed armed robber who has served three prison sentences - is co-ordinator of the Haggston Two Housing Association in St Philip's Road, Dalston, which helps to re-integrate ex-offenders into society.

Mr Shilleto, 45, is suing police for assault and false imprisonment after he alleges he was handcuffed and beaten up in a police van and subjected to racist abuse.

Another case involves Danny Daniel, 20, from Stratford, who is suing police for false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and assault after he and his middle-aged parents were arrested after a minor parking offence at Dalston's Ridley Road Market.

He was charged with a public order offence, but the charge was later dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Civil actions in both the Shilleto and Daniel cases were started this week at Shoreditch County Court. They are among several cases of alleged police misconduct involving black people which Hackney Law Centre in Mare Street has taken up.

"Legal aid has been granted in both these cases," said solicitor, Stephen Craig, of Hackney Law Centre.

Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clark, said he was not aware of either of the cases.

"The Metropolitan Police solicitor will decide whether to contest them or not, depending on their merits," he said.

New police shop is a force to be reckoned with



● Cop a load of thiel From left to right, Chief Supt Bernard Taffe, Pc Graham Bell, mayor Gerry Ross and Pc Maria Gray at the opening of the new police shop in Haggerston Road.

HACKNEY folk have always called the local police station the "cop shop," but now Haggerston residents really do have their own cop shop!

A former florist's shop in Haggerston Road has been totally refurbished by the Metropolitan Police at a cost of £30,000, and is now to be used as an arm of City Road police station in the fight against drugs.

It opened last Friday, and is the result of pressure from residents of the nearby Haggerston Estate, who had complained of being overrun by

the drug dealers and their customers.

The shop, which Hackney Council has given to the police rent free for five years, will also offer help and advice on all other police matters.

Home Beat PCs Maria Gray and Graham Bell will staff the shop, which is open from midday to 2pm Monday to Saturday.

The two constables were joined at the opening celebrations by Hackney's top cop, Chief Supt Bernard Taffe, and Hackney's mayor, Cllr Gerry Ross.

Police aim to sniff out a few golden retrievers!



THE CID Room at Stoke Newington police station is fast becoming an Aladdin's cave of stolen gold.

Carmel Lohy, who works there as an admin assistant, is pictured with one of 18 trays of gold, some of it rare 22 carat Asian and Turkish design, which came into the detectives' possession after the arrest of a local jeweller.

The scrap value of the 300 pieces of gold is estimated at about £4,000 but, as items of jewellery, the total haul could be worth £20,000. Det Cons Chris Heerey told the Gazette.

And the cops want to get the gold back to its rightful owners so they are holding an open evening on Wednesday, April 1, between 7pm and 9pm.

"If anyone in the Stoke Newington and Islington areas has lost gold jewellery within the last three months up until March 1 they are welcome to come and take a look," Det Cons Heerey added.

A suspicious bullion merchant tipped off the cops after he was offered the lot to melt down as scrap.

Politicians questioned by police!

HACKNEY'S politicians and other leading figures in the community have been quizzed by detectives about a serious police matter.

They have been sent a special questionnaire to Hackney and City Road police division can work out its priorities and objectives for the forthcoming financial year.

They have conducted a detailed survey by canvassing the views of the borough's MPs and councillors, as well as education chiefs, statutory agencies, Hackney Police Community Consultative Group and crime prevention panels.

And they have sent out an extra 1,000 questionnaires to some houses or flats in the south and east of the borough.

They want to find out what ordinary members of the public think police should be concentrating their efforts and hard-pressed resources on during 1992.

Hackney police have been delighted with the response from the public, with over 200 forms being returned.

"This is a very high rate from a postal survey," said Superintendent David Hynes.

"The public showed an impressive grasp of the problems and the limitations of our resources," he said.

"Many of the respondents took the opportunity of adding messages of encouragement and appreciation for our efforts, and we value enormously the time and effort they took in making their views known to us."

"It is essential we take the ideas of Hackney people into account when deciding where we should concentrate our efforts," added Det Chief Insp Dan Crawley.

The plans will be published in early time

HG

27-3-92

Gentleman jewel thief Ray 'The Cat' Jones reckons he has gambled away more than £11 million during his colourful career of crime – now he wants Hollywood superstar Patrick Swayze to star in a movie of his life story.

DOGS, horses, cards, dice, you name it, Ray has lost his money on it, and his exciting life and times could soon be appearing in print and on the big screen.

And if the film-of-the-book comes off, Ray, 76, who now lives in a sparsely-furnished council bedsit in Durley Road, Stoke Newington, told the Gazette that he wants athletic heart-throb Patrick Swayze in the starring role stealing and gambling away millions.

Ray's cash came from dozens of acrobatic cat burglaries on the homes of politicians, film stars and

by MARK GOULD

gentry, together with ambitious raids on West End jewellers. In one heist on a Buckinghamshire mansion he watched fascinated as a cinema legend snogged with two beautiful women – one his wife-to-be and the other a film starlet.

"I let them get on with things and crept out empty-handed," Ray said.

Ray made front-page news as well as the Guinness Book of Records for a daring jail break and 26 months on the run from 1956 to 1958.

His life and crimes netted millions, but it all went on the spin of a wheel or the turn of a card.

"At one time in the 1940s I was holding £187,000 in cash when I did a black marketeer's house in Edgware Road."

But the money was never in his hands for very long.

"I used to go to clubs in Dean Street and Frith Street in Soho and sometimes the Green Dragon in Aldgate to play dice or rummy."

"I have never worried about money. If I lost the lot I knew I could always go out and do a job and my fence would give me two or three grand for the stuff," Ray said.

Author and broadcaster Tony Van Den Berg, who went on the run with gangster Charlie Richardson after a '60s jailbreak and wrote the story of the manhunt for the Sunday Times, has nearly finished a book of Ray's life. They are now looking for a publisher. If the book deal comes off, film-makers Goldcrest are interested in a big-screen spin-off.

● A Dashing Figure. Ray pictured as a young man in his twenties.

"What we have here is a marvellous romantic story of a cat burglar who stole from the very rich – though he never gave to the poor like Robin Hood – he was involved in the gambling clubs in a life most people will never have heard about," Tony said.



● Ray gets a taste for the Hollywood lifestyle, posing alongside a friend's Rolls Royce.

Former villain Ray goes Swayze crazy

● Wanted: film hunk Patrick Swayze.

Judge rejects evidence of crack addicts

Two acquitted of nightclub killing

TWO men alleged to have shot dead a drugs dealer at a Hackney nightspot were cleared at the Old Bailey after the judge ruled they had no case to answer.

Shaun Atkins, 24, and Michael Thomas, 27, both of Atlantic Road, Brixton, were acquitted at the end of the week-long case for the prosecution.

They were said to have boasted in prison that they carried out the execution of Nicholas Johnson, 21, who was shot several times at Senola's nightclub in Watford Road, Hackney Wick, in November 1990.

But defence counsel said that the evidence came from three prisoners who were hardened crack addicts still suffering from "auditory hallucinations."

Their evidence and that of two other witnesses could not be relied upon and the judge should dismiss the charge, submitted Rock Tansey, QC, for Atkins.

Defence counsel Alan Suckling, QC, made a similar plea for Thomas during

legal arguments in the absence of the jury.

Judge Robert Lyndberg, QC, the Common Serjeant, agreed and recalled the jury with a direction to acquit both accused.

Earlier, David Calvert-Smith, prosecuting, alleged that Johnson was killed because he slashed Atkins across the nose during a fight at the Green Man public house in Shacklewell Lane, Dalston, on August 5, 1990.

Atkins, he claimed, was one of two men with handguns who found Johnson at the nightclub on November 30 and murdered him for revenge.

Johnson made a desperate attempt to escape, but was chased and hit several times by bullets from 38 revolvers.

As he lay bleeding, one of his attackers calmly shot him through the head.

A desperate attempt to save him was made by doctors at Homerton Hospital, but he died on the operating table.

In addition to being cleared of murder, Thomas was cleared by the jury on the

Judge's direction of affray and having a firearm.

Both men strenuously denied any participation in the killing.

Judge Lyndberg said he had considered the state of the evidence and found it to be "unsafe and unsatisfactory." Three prison inmates at Brixton Jail were called as Crown witnesses and the case rested entirely on them.

They alleged that the defendants had made confessions to them about the shooting.

But all three men were of bad character with numerous previous convictions and were hardened crack addicts. They had been disbelieved by juries in the past.

The judge said: "Each of them has a motive to fabricate, perhaps for revenge or otherwise. We do not act on suspicion or speculation here."

He added: "Where the truth lies perhaps we will never know. But we have to go on the evidence when deciding guilt."

March against racism

HACKNEY'S newest anti-racist group takes to the streets on Saturday in memory of a Tamil refugee who was beaten to death by a gang of baseball bat-wielding thugs.

Fam-hadcharam Sahitharan, 28, died four days later without ever regaining consciousness. The march is to raise awareness of the increasing numbers of racist attacks in Hackney and neighbouring areas.

The march takes place in Newham, but Hackney Anti Racist Alliance (ARA) will be leafleting Hackney's estates and shopping centres and providing transport from Hackney Town Hall for protesters.

Clancy Ellenne, co-chair of Hackney ARA, said: "This March for Justice will be sending out a clear message: we will not tolerate politicians making electoral gains from racism."

"The National Front and the British National Party are putting up election candidates in the East End. We say 'no' to the race card."

Murder sparks U-turn at domestic violence units

POLICE domestic violence units will no longer be used as places where couples can patch up their differences following the murder of Vandana Patel by her husband at Stoke Newington police station.

Jayanti Patel was jailed for life at the Old Bailey for the murder of his wife in April last year.

Insp Shirley Tulloch of the Met's domestic violence unit told the city's own paper The Police Review that 62 units in London were already operating the policy informally.

A police working party on domestic violence is considering 17 recommendations made by the inquiry into Mrs Patel's murder. They are due to report at the end of the year.

Insp Tulloch said it had been decided to review domestic violence unit procedure before the death of Mrs Patel.

HC 27.3.92



Law and disorder

Hackney Police are notorious. Assault, 'discreditable conduct', corruption and drug-dealing are just some of the charges that have been levelled against them. To make **'Cutting Edge: Coppers'**, film-maker Paul Greengrass spent four weeks tracking the borough's officers. After ten years of making hard-hitting films for 'World In Action' and co-writing 'Spycatcher' with Peter Wright, Greengrass is a self-confessed 'anti authoritarian with impeccable credentials'. That he ends up with a healthy respect for your average Hackney policeman comes as something of a shock.

Greengrass stresses that his film is not a piece of investigative journalism, rather 'a portrait of how policemen deal with the stress that comes from the street'. 'I felt very tired of seeing programmes that simply slammed the police, and I didn't feel I'd ever seen a film about how coppers feel when they're under pressure. This is that film.'

The original idea was to make a film looking at the Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA), an organisation involved in many successful prosecutions of the police. But after initial research, Greengrass decided that was not possible. 'The HCDA wanted many unreasonable guarantees. They wanted a right to veto, they wanted to vet everything, and they would not let us talk to any of their alleged victims without their presence. When they demanded that the police would not appear in the film I told them to fuck off. I feel they are out to demonise the police, which is not at all helpful.'

The two main strands of the film, which had not been finally edited when we went to press, are the cases of PC Mark Moles and WPC Tina Martin. Moles is seen having a cautionary interview with senior officers after his part in a violent arrest of two men. Martin is seen before and after a court appearance in which she defends her part in the arrest of a black pensioner. 'It is the first time that anyone has been allowed to film an internal cautionary interview,' says Greengrass of the Moles case, 'and that is the strongest part of the film. What comes across is the gulf between the two perceptions of what he did, and I hope that viewers will draw their own conclusions.' The police lost the case in which Martin appears, and a 73-year-old woman was awarded £50,000 compensation for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Greengrass admits that the police probably behaved differently in front of the cameras. 'But I'm not a naive fool, and I don't believe for one minute that the moment I walked out of the door they rushed out and started dragging people into the back of vans and beating them up. I'm not here to defend the police, but the idea that beating up innocent people is some sort of Hackney police bloodsport seems to me total nonsense.' Tina Ogle

'Cutting Edge: Coppers', 9.00pm, C1.

TIME OUT
1.4.92



Inside view: members of Hackney police force (9.00pm)

9.00 Cutting Edge: Coppers.

● **CHOICE:** Hackney in East London is described in this film as Britain's most notorious police district. For years officers have faced allegations of malpractice. Scotland Yard is currently investigating accusations of corruption and drug dealing by local officers. The Hackney Community Defence Association has published dossiers on 30 officers and is pursuing 25 actions against the police in the civil courts. The police retort that they are trying to do their best against heavy odds in a violent and impoverished inner-city area whose streets are rife with crime, drugs and prostitution. Paul Greengrass's documentary presents an inside view of the Hackney force and their accusers. It includes the first television footage of an internal police complaints hearing. The film tries to illuminate without taking sides, revealing an accumulation of antagonism and mistrust which will be desperately hard to break down (1709)

TIMES 6.4.92

CUTTING EDGE: COPPERS

9pm-10pm C4



Hackney gets a tremendous amount of bad press: this week, it's the turn of the upstanding constabulary. Presenting an image as far removed from *Dixon Of Dock Green* than you'd have thought possible, an inquiry into their practices was set up after 'floods of complaints and accusations' from the public. The list is extensive: widespread assaults of suspects, fabrication of evidence, perjury of the highest order, corruption amongst plain clothes officers and the dismissal of seven officers who severely beat a man while he was drinking in a pub. The *Cutting Edge* cameras follow City Road police as they try to retain their credibility (did they ever have any?) in the midst of internal disciplinary actions and judgements for compensation in the civil courts. Not exactly 'fly on the wall' coverage, rather a 'rottweiler off its lead' documentary, Hackney's finest don't give the impression that they should be awarded with good conduct medals. MSR

CITY LIMITS
2.4.92

A police robbery squad is tackling the mugging menace.
Russ Lawrence met the man in charge of the operation.

Get-tough policy hits street crime

THE streets of Hackney have become safer places since the launch of a police task-force to crack down on muggers.

The success of a special borough-wide robbery squad has meant women and old folk need no longer be afraid to leave their homes for fear of being mugged.

Since the 22-strong team was set up six months ago over 300 arrests have been made, while street robberies are down and clear-up rates have doubled.

The squad, which is based at Stoke Newington police station, was formed to combat the rising level of street crime which hit its peak in the summer of last year.

It was launched in October as part of Operation Dutton and its role is one of pro-active policing - targeting muggers, gathering intelligence, keeping them under surveillance and arresting them.

Up until then Hackney, City Road and Stoke Newington police stations had mounted their own individual initiatives against street crime, with the result it displaced the problem to other parts of the borough because the muggers simply moved.

But now it is a co-ordinated effort where resources, manpower and intelligence are pooled and the squad has access to Scotland Yard's HOLMES (Home Office Larger Major Enquiry System) computer database.

"The computer provides access to intelligence on suspects on our division and other police divisions in London and throughout the country," said the man in charge of the robbery squad, Insp Patrick Keenan.

"Many of the muggers who commit robberies in Hackney don't actually live here and come from places like Tottenham and South London to visit clubs in the area," he explained.

"It's a two-way thing, because many of our muggers travel to other boroughs to commit crimes."

Because of the co-ordinated approach the robbery squad is able to pick up developing crime trends and react to them more speedily.

Observation posts and plain-clothes officers are used to keep suspects under surveillance and informants are also helpful in providing intelligence.

"Many of the muggers are organised and work in teams," said Insp Keenan. "Some of it is drug-related crime to feed a habit, but more often than not it's like a job of work for them. They need some ready cash and mugging someone is an easy way of getting it."

"Following an old person who has just drawn their pension from the post office or trailing someone who has just withdrawn cash from a bank or a cash dispenser is another method used."

"We arrested one teenager who told me quite unashamedly that he'd carried out a number of muggings."



● Insp Patrick Keenan - "many of the muggers who commit robberies in Hackney don't actually live here."

because he needed the money to buy himself some new trainers.

"Many of the mugging team are quite sophisticated and will swap

clothes with each other or turn their jackets inside out before committing a crime, to make it harder for them to be identified afterwards."

Most crime victims are happy with police help

A CUSTOMER satisfaction survey reveals 84 per cent of Hackney's crime victims were happy with the way police dealt with their case.

Hackney police commissioned a private company to analyse the results of a questionnaire sent out at random to victims of crime, callers at the Hackney police station and people involved in road accidents.

The police say the results show that "an overwhelming majority of the public who have recently come into contact with Hackney police believe the officers were both very helpful and sympathetic."

The survey revealed 75 per cent of callers at the station thought the staff helpful and that the service they received was good.

And 84 per cent of the victims of crime were satisfied with the service they received, with many praising the officers highly for their care and attention.

Supt David Hynes, said "These figures are most encouraging and reflect the continuing professionalism and commitment of police officers in Hackney. I believe they compare favourably with any large organisation or public body."

"Nevertheless we are in no way complacent but determined that with continued public consultation and liaison with other agencies we will be able to build upon, and indeed improve, this high quality of police service."

Police link raids at chemist shops

TWO gunmen who held up a chemist's shop in Stamford Hill had struck the day before at another chemist at Hackney Downs.

Detectives are linking the two hold-ups because both times the robbers demanded the video tape from the shop's security cameras before escaping with cash.

The duo struck first at Easton's in Downs Court, Amhurst Road, at 3.20pm on Wednesday afternoon of last week.

They threatened chemist, Mr Rachel Dawett, at gunpoint, forced him to lie face down on the floor, and then ran off into the nearby Pembury Estate with £170 from the till.

Before they fled they demanded the

by RUSS LAWRENCE

chemist hand over the tape from the security camera, but he explained there was no video in it.

The following evening the gunmen held up staff at Nash's chemist shop in Stamford Hill Parade.

They forced the manager and three female assistants to lie face down on the floor.

Then they rifled the till and stole £1,000 in cash, as well as taking valuables belonging to the staff.

Detectives at Stoke Newington have issued descriptions of the two men and have appealed for witnesses who may have seen them making their getaway.

Both are black and aged 20 to 25. The first was 5ft 9ins tall, with a stocky build and wearing a baseball cap, a khaki-coloured trench coat with his trousers turned up, and trainers.

His accomplice is described as 6ft 1ins tall, slim build, wearing a woolly hat, trainers and a black bomber jacket.

"There are several bus stops outside Nash's where passengers who were waiting may have got a good look at the robbers," said Insp Patrick Keenan of the robbery squad.

"Easton's is also at the busy junction of Dalston Lane, Pembury Road and Amhurst Road and someone must have spotted them there."

Anyone with any information about the incidents should contact the robbery squad on 071 488 7224.

HG J-4-92

CLASS WAR RIOT ALERT

Special
Branch
called
in as
meeting
is
planned
on
estate

SPECIAL Branch has been called in by Hackney police after fears that a rally by notorious anarchist group Class War, on a Lower Clapton council estate, could explode into violence.

The planned mass meeting on the Pembury Estate is the latest stop on the anarchists' nationwide "Summer of Discontent" tour, which has seen them out in force at recent riot-hit trouble-spots such as the Blackbird Leys Estate in Oxford, and Tyneside's Meadowell Estate.

The police think the shadowy group had a hand in organising the summer riots, and are determined that Hackney will not become the next flashpoint.

Class War - whose flag is a skull-and-crossbones - say their aim is to "ignite powder-keg housing estates in a massive outbreak of defiance." And they add, chillingly: "If communities take up arms against the police and the local authority, we won't lose any sleep."

Detailed instructions will be available at the rally on how to make deadly do-it-yourself Molotov cocktails, grenades, bombs and other devastating weapons.

And to whip up anti-police feeling, a speaker from Los Angeles will tell the crowds about the uprising there, when thousands of people took part in an orgy of looting and violence. It followed the acquittal of four white police officers filmed beating a black man, and troops had to be drafted in to keep the peace.

The threat of trouble is being taken seriously. Chief Inspector Ken Day, from Hackney police station, said: "We know about the meeting, and have been in

touch with Special Branch to see if they can give us any other information on Class War.

"We are also taking advice from the Crown Prosecution Service to see if offenders are being committed under the Public Order Act.

"Class War have no long-term interest in the area. They seek purely to cause destruction and don't care what they leave behind.

"We will take whatever action is necessary to protect the people of Hackney."

Security stepped up

The anarchist rally was originally planned for next Saturday, but has been postponed for two weeks (until August 29) while Class War step up security for the meeting and tell residents what they're up to.

A Class War spokesperson warned: "The idea is to secure it against any possible police intervention.

"If the police do try and stop the rally going ahead, we will see it as extreme provocation.

"We want to get people out onto the streets, to feel our own strength. By our very nature we hope to incite violence."

'We will take whatever action is necessary to protect the people of Hackney'

Award chance for brave cops who tackled knifemen

COPS who foiled an armed robbery in progress after an abandoned 999 call was traced have been praised for their courage in risking their lives to tackle two masked knifemen.

Senior officers at Stoke Newington police station have recommended that constable P. C. Clive Mackrow, 24, and P. C. Christopher Murray, 21, receive a police commissioner's bravery award after foiling the robbery at a Dalston shop at the weekend.

The robbers, wearing stocking masks, had knifed and battered two members of the staff to get them to reveal where they kept the money, then bound and gagged them.

But before one of the victims was tied up, he managed to secretly make a 999 call to a police station, although it was abandoned before he could say anything.

However, special tracing equipment enabled police to pinpoint where the call was from, and they raced to the shop in Balis Food Road.

P. C. Mackrow was in the first patrol car on the scene. As he went down an alley at the side of the shop, one of the victims staggered out towards him, covered in blood.

At the same moment the first of the two knifemen ran out of the front of the shop waving the knife and threatening two of P. C. Mackrow's colleagues.

As the first knifeman ran off with one of the officers in hot pursuit, P. C. Mackrow dived at the second knifeman as he emerged from the shop, and struggled with him until he and a sergeant had overpowered him.

New trial ordered over attack on rookie cop

A FRESH trial was ordered at the Old Bailey for a Homeiron man accused of the attempted murder and unlawful wounding of a rookie policeman.

David Moss, 24, of Anderson House, Wyke Road, pleaded not guilty to the charges of attacking P. C. Ian Slaney on June 26 last year in St John's churchyard near Hackney police station.

P. C. Slaney was stabbed nine times with a Gherka-style kurti knife during a frenzied attack near the police station.

After legal argument in the absence of the jury, Judge Richard Lowry, QC, discharged the jury and ordered a re-trial.

The court heard that 19-year-old P. C. Slaney had still been in his probationary period and on his first day on the beat alone.

The prosecution alleged that when P. C. Slaney said he wanted to search him, Moss produced the kurti and hit out. One passer-by described the officer "screaming the sort of scream that goes right through you."

Although he suffered multiple wounds, P. C. Slaney was not seriously injured because the weapon was blunt.

The re-trial was ordered after Moss claimed in court that he had been attacked by P. C. Slaney. Moss said he acted in self-defence.

The judge said he was concerned that P. C. Slaney had not been cross-examined about Moss's claim.

It was in the interests of justice for a new trial to be held, said the judge.

Fake device caused major alert

Ex-public schoolboy sent poll tax office letter bomb

A FORMER public schoolboy who caused a major bomb alert when he posted a hoax device to the Hackney poll tax office in Stoke Newington, was jailed for six months last Thursday.

Streets in Stoke Newington were sealed off causing traffic chaos for two-and-a-half hours when compulsory student Guy Henderson, 32, sent the fake letter bomb.

Henderson, of Dalston Lane, Dalston, pleaded guilty to dispatching an article with criminal intent.

Passing sentence at Southwark Crown Court, Judge Robert Southern related how Henderson - a former pupil of Milton Abbas public school in Dorset - "manufactured" what looked like a letter bomb before sending it to the community charge office.

Police were called and as a result the building was evacuated. Police officers had to be taken from their duties and deployed.

Traffic was held up for hours.

"All that was the result of your activity in sending that object through the post," said the judge, who read psychiatric reports and took into account Henderson's history of depression.

The court heard how an office administrative assistant opened a bulky envelope containing the fake bomb.

Quizzed by detectives at one point, repl "How are people supposed to peacefully demonstrate against the poll tax?"

Mr Peter Lodder, sending, said Henderson "bitterly regretted what he did and simply did not understand the consequences of his action."

The court was told Henderson, who had written abusive notes to council concerning poll tax in the past, had single previous conviction for threatening behaviour relating to an officer carried out during the vulgar Square poll tax on March 31, 1990.

Police were called and disruption was caused by the security measures that were put in force, continued counsel.



Chief Supt Roy Clark (centre) congratulates P. C. Christopher Murray

45
7.8.92

Drug trial delayed by absent officers

Investigations continue into the
"worst case of corruption in the Met
for a decade." John Sugrue reports

LAST week at Snaresbrook Crown Court, East London, Anthony Wood (26), who is pleading not guilty to possession of 2045 grammes of cannabis, following his arrest last November, had his case deferred.

Two of the officers in the case, DC Ronald Pumbo and PC Connell Duggan failed to appear on August 5 and 6 despite the judge asking the prosecution to secure their attendance at court. Both officers sent in sick certificates to the court to explain their absence.

Officer Pumbo is one of the officers being investigated as part of the on-going inquiry into corruption at Stoke Newington Police Station.

In June, local MP Brian Sedgemore, who has tabled two Early Day Motions (EDMs) in parliament, met with a delegation of individuals, who outlined their allegations of police 'fitting them up' with drugs, resulting in their conviction and sentencing. Family, legal representatives and local police watchdog Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA) also participated.

Sedgemore's EDM, of June 19, stated, "Some police officers from Stoke Newington police station have been involved in organised crime, including running a protection racket, drug dealing, planting drugs on individuals and perjury."

He explained that those seeking appeal against convictions are being hampered by the failure of the CPS to disclose the extent of the investigation and the findings of the inquiry in as far as they affect the character of police witnesses.

Furthermore, he requested the Home Secretary, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and the CPS to ensure all the findings should be disclosed to the defence solicitors, "the interest of justice calls for a more wide ranging inquiry to be carried out by an independent police force," the EDM said.

Also in June, 36 Barristers and 18 solicitors, acting in cases involving evidence of the officers in question, wrote letters to the Home Secretary Kenneth Baker and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills.

Expressing alarm at the delay in the outcome of

Operation Jackpot they demanded information about the operation that could assist in ensuring their clients receive justice. They are also concerned that the CPS, which is willing to examine current cases, are not prepared to reopen cases, where people have been convicted on the evidence of alleged corrupt officers.

Since then top level meetings have been held between Scotland Yard and the CPS to discuss the use of evidence from police officers who are under investigation for alleged corruption.

Judge Hanlan told the court the case must be considered at a very senior level and he expects, if needs be, communication from the senior officer in the investigation, Det Supt Ian Russell. He also requested a senior Prosecuting counsel to consider whether to proceed.

The HCDA which was originally responsible for drawing attention to the issue and is conducting its own investigation into the allegations says in the interests of justice the CPS should drop the case and end nine months of suffering for the defendant concerned.

Spokesman Graham Smith said, "Justice is being reduced to a lottery, it's not clear which officer is going to turn up to give evidence. Justice is not being served by the CPS hiding a discredited officer."

Operation Jackpot originated in April 1991 following allegations by Pearl Cameron, a self-confessed drug dealer, that she was being supplied with Class A drugs by a serving police officer referred to in court, during her trial, as officer X.

An assistant commissioner at Scotland Yard has said the scandal is "the worst case of corruption in the Met for a decade."

The investigation is concerned with accusations that Stoke Newington police officers were involved in drug dealing, theft and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, and in particular accusations that the officers in question regularly planted people with drugs in order to gain convictions are being looked into.

Supt Russell, of Scotland Yard's Complaints Investigation Bureau, the Met's anti-corruption squad, was expected to report in June however, he is now likely to conclude this Autumn.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

13.8.92

Police to get unbreakable ethics code

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

THE POLICE are to have a code of ethics for the first time in their history.

The "tablets of stone," intended as an equivalent to the medical profession's hippocratic oath, will set ethical guidelines and assure officers that they need not obey unlawful commands from their superiors.

The code, which the Guardian understands is likely to be ready by December, will set out principles for serving officers. Although officers swear an oath of allegiance when they join, there has never been a code of ethics as such.

An Association of Chief Police Officers ethics working party, chaired by Michael Hirst, the Chief Constable of Leicestershire, and consisting of representatives of the Superintendents Association, the Police Federation, Bramshill police staff college and the Home Office, has already had four meetings on the subject.

The code is likely to have about 10 principles and is being partly modelled on the Council of Europe's Declaration on the Police and the United Nations Code of Conduct for law enforcement officials. It will embrace such issues as the honest reporting of incidents, acting justly, avoiding force where possible and more recent dilemmas such as the acceptance of sponsorship.

Mr Hirst told the Guardian that there were two main reasons for introducing the code: the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four and other high-profile cases in the Court of Appeal had raised the question of police integrity; and the "performance indicators" embodied in the Citizen's Charter put pressure on officers to achieve speedy results, which could lead to a temptation to cut corners.

"It was felt we ought to have some system of ethically based principles," said Mr Hirst, "tablets of stone which will not be broken."

He said that in the past there had been a tendency among police to believe that the end justified the means. The code

Austin

THEY CALL FOR THE CHISEL OF AN ANDERTON...



would spell out the moral guidelines by which an officer would work.

There is already a Statement of Common Purpose and Values, which originated at the Metropolitan police but is now adopted in essence by most forces. The new code will go into greater detail and protect officers who feel they are being asked to act wrongly, said Mr Hirst. It will seek to fill a gap in the policing model and let officers know that they should not obey an unlawful order, he said. "We have to find a way to assist officers to make a moral stand."

Because the police were so often in contact with the victims of horrific crime or had to deal with hardened criminals, there was a tendency for them to become jaundiced. The code will draw the bounds beyond which they cannot go.

"Those bounds have been broken for quite understandable but unprofessional reasons by senior police officers," he said. Sometimes they felt they would be letting the victim down if they did not secure a conviction. "It's a very complex issue but a very real one."

The final code should be ready for a meeting at Bramshill staff college on December 8 which the Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, will attend. Sir John Woodcock, the Chief Inspector of the police, is likely to outline the issue at the International Police Conference in London in October.

Leader comment, page 16

GUARDIAN

14.8.92

Police play host to top German cops

GERMANS may be famous for being the first to grab all the sunbeds on holiday, but all they grabbed was attention when 10 top cops launched a week-long blitzkrieg on the streets of Hackney.

The cops, all senior officers from the German city of Witten, were in the borough to see how the Met's "policing by consent" policy is put into practice on the mean streets of Stoke Newington.

They accompanied the Tactical Support Group as they toured the borough in their armoured vans and then wound down with a visit to the traffic division.

The visiting cops also toured Barking and Dagenham and spent a day at New Scotland Yard and the Police Staff College.

The visit was organised by ex-Stoke Newington chief superintendent and European liaison officer Peter Twist, who said: "They told us that our officers are very much more disciplined than their German counterparts. They also paid tribute to the

team work they witnessed."

● A Spanish cop was also in the area on a busman's holiday. Traffic officer Santiago Hernandez, from Zaragoza, has just spent two weeks at Bow Traffic Garage - and was filmed by the BBC for a film about work exchanges.

Two hundred police officers from Hackney, Stoke Newington, City Road and other stations have completed lessons in French, Spanish and German in readiness for when the Euro barriers come down.

Chief Supt Twist added: "You cannot hope to fully understand the customs and practices of a country whose language you are studying without visiting and working alongside police officers in that country."

"It is through these visits that we increase our knowledge of the ways and culture of our European colleagues and lay the foundations that will enable us to work more closely together in the future."

HC

14.8.92

Hobson's choice for name after special baby delivery

BABY Daniel is now in the custody of his own home after his brush with the law when he was born on the front office floor of Hackney police station!

Two quick-thinking coppers had the extra duty of midwife added to their night shift when mum Jackie Morrison, 32, walked into the nick and calmly announced that her waters had broken.

The station foyer was transformed into a makeshift delivery room as Pc Andrew Hobson, 23, and Inspector Allen Milne, 45, rushed from behind the front counter to deliver the bouncing baby boy, at 4.10am on Thursday last week.

Mother and baby were then whisked off to Hemon Hospital by ambulance while Hackney nick's dynamic duo got a ribbing from their workmates about being Kindergarten Kops!

And this week with the proud mum and her new son back at home in Pembury Close on Lower Clapton's Pembury Estate, there was more nappy news for Pc Hobson - the baby's second name is Andrew after him.

"I wanted to name the baby after him as he was great!" said single mum Jackie, who also has a five-year-old son, Martin.

"Everything happened very quickly as my waters had broken and the baby's head was already showing when I walked into the station."

"Andrew just kept saying that it was a good job I knew what I was doing, as he'd never seen a baby being born before, never mind help to deliver one!"

And what did the born squad think of the experience? Well, after a pregnant pause, Pc Hobson



© Pc Andrew Hobson holding baby Daniel, whose second name will be Andrew.



© Paramedics help baby Daniel and mum Jackie after the birth on the police station floor.

by
CAROL DYCE

admitted: "I felt a bit sick! But it happened very quickly and Jackie was amazingly calm."

Cuddling her dark-haired, 7lb 5oz bundle of joy, Jackie explained: "I went to hospital at 2.30am convinced I was in labour. But a doctor examined me, said the baby wasn't ready and sent me home."

"I started walking home and

when I got outside Hackney police station, my waters broke and I knew the baby certainly WAS ready to be born."

"And what a start to life - being born in a police station!"

Instead of getting bail, the baby gave a lusty wail as a midwife and team of paramedics made sure everything was alright before taking mother and son to Hemon Hospital.

Inspector Milne said: "I was present at my own son's birth, so I did have some idea of what to do. And it certainly broke the monotony of night duty!"

Anarchist rally is set for police showdown

ANARCHIST group Class War has pledged to go ahead with a mass rally - just 200 yards from Hackney police station.

The intentionally provocative gathering will take place in the Narway on a Saturday afternoon when hundreds of shoppers crowd the street.

Class War say the site has been chosen deliberately to stop the police breaking up the rally. Any attempt to arrest the ringleaders or prevent the mass meeting is likely to lead to violence, raising the fear that innocent mothers and children could get hurt.

The controversial rally was supposed to take place last Saturday on Lower Clapton's Pembury Estate, but scrapped because Class War felt it was too easy for police to seal off all the exits.

Now next Saturday (August 29) has been fixed as the target date instead, giving time for the anarchists to prepare security plans.

And they are also busy leafletting nearby residents - every flat on the Pembury Estate has received a copy of Class War's propaganda sheet, complete with skull-and-crossbones logo and "Bash the Rich" slogans.

Class War spokesperson Tim Scargill says: "The police will try and stop our rally, we're quite convinced of that. That's why we're holding our rally in an open space, the Narway."

"If the police try anything, it will not only be a pain in the neck for us, but also for the public."

Hackney police have already called in Special Branch for advice on how to deal with the meeting, which is part of the anarchists' "Summer of Discontent" tour of national troublespots.

In a deliberate, two-fingered gesture to police, a speaker from Los Angeles will inflame the crowds with tales of the recent riots there. Thousands of people took part in an orgy of looting and violence after four white police officers were cleared of beating up black motorist Rodney King.

Detailed do-it-yourself instructions will also be available at the rally on how to make Molotov cocktails, grenades, bombs and other weapons.

Chief Inspector Ken Day, from Hackney police station, has already pledged: "We will take whatever action is necessary to protect the people of Hackney."

Now police and anarchists seem set for a showdown.



© Police make their presence felt as they try to clean up Stamford Hill's red-light zone.

TSG hits streets in vice crackdown

AN AVERAGE of six vice girls or their punters are being nicked every night as Stoke Newington cops, backed up by the Territorial Support Group, continue the war on kerb-crawling in the Amburst Park red-light zone in Stamford Hill.

A squad of TSG officers has been ordered in by Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clark, to assist in the clean-up campaign that has been set up by Stoke Newington's street offences and vice squad.

Last year a mobile "portacabin" was installed in Amburst Park to

provide a round-the-clock police presence to deter kerb-crawlers and prostitutes after cops were inundated with complaints from residents sick of used condoms, dirty syringes and continual noise from car-driving punters.

"At the moment 12 officers per

night are taking part in operations in Amburst Park," said Sgt Allen Todd, of Stoke Newington police.

"The team are picking up at least six prisoners a night from their continued operations in Amburst Park. Mostly it is prostitutes, but sometimes we do arrest customers."

HC 21.8.92

Second drugs case collapses

David Pallister

THE Crown Prosecution Service yesterday offered no evidence in a second drugs case involving Stoke Newington police station in east London after admitting that the officer in charge "cannot be relied upon as a witness of truth."

The station has been under investigation by Scotland Yard's anti-corruption branch for 18 months following allegations of fabricating and planting evidence and other serious charges.

At Snaresbrook crown court Tony Wood, aged 26, was formally acquitted of possessing two kilos of cannabis with intent to supply.

The trial started two weeks ago when prosecuting counsel told Judge Halnan that Pc Ronald Palumbo would not be offered as a prosecution witness because of the unreliability of his evidence.

Pc Palumbo, who was one of eight officers transferred from the station last year, was suspended in June after being named by MPs.

The prosecution service offered no evidence in another case in June and admitted for the first time in a series of collapsed cases from Stoke Newington that the reason related

to the credibility of prosecution, that is police, witnesses.

Mr Wood was arrested on the street last November and charged with having the cannabis, worth more than £10,000, in a bag. He claimed the drugs were planted. His defence was that he was looking for a squat and carrying a lock in the bag. He was bailed after two weeks.

Lawyers decided that the case should go ahead without Pc Palumbo. But they did promise his attendance at the trial two weeks ago when the judge or the defence could have called him to the witness box.

He did not attend, claiming he was sick with depression. Another officer failed to appear claiming he had a torn ligament.

The judge ordered senior CPS lawyers to review the case and yesterday they decided not to proceed.

Mr Wood said he was very happy with the result but he was concerned that only one officer involved in his arrest and interrogation had been identified as unreliable.

"I have had to endure a curfew from 7pm to 7am, except Fridays and Sundays, for the past nine months," he said. "Living a normal life again will not be easy. I will have to watch over my shoulder all the time after this. That is what it is like living round here."

GUARDIAN

23.8.92

Police run into wall of silence over club shooting



● The club where a fight broke out at three in the morning.

A MAN was shot in the chest and his attacker was smashed over the head with a bottle in a crowded drinking club, but police are having trouble tracking down anyone who saw the incident.

The basement disco of Maksim's in Kingsland High Street, Dalston, was packed with about 150 people just before 3am on Tuesday morning when a fight broke out.

A 27-year-old south London man, who is not being named, was shot once in the chest.

Det Insp Len Hynds, from Stoke Newington police, said there was a violent struggle. "His attacker may well have a head injury as he was hit with a bottle during the fight.

"The early suggestion is that it was an argument which developed in the club," added Det Insp Hynds.

"One man pulled a gun and the victim was shot through the chest. He's in a stable condition.

"The victim was well-known to the club. There is no suggestion of any drug links. We think it was simply an argument.

"We haven't been able to speak to many people who saw the incident and I would

by MARK GOULD

appeal for more people to come forward. One woman who did come forward gave a false address to the police. We would like to speak to her again in complete confidence.

"A car was seen speeding away from Maksim's after the shooting. It was a silver Ford Escort and we are anxious to trace that vehicle.

The victim is "recovering well," according to a Home-ron Hospital spokesperson.

Anyone with information about the incident should phone 071-488 5212 and ask for Det Insp Hynds at Stoke Newington CID.

● In August, 1990, 25-year-old Glen Lee Abdul, from the Northwold Estate, Upper Clapton, died in hospital two weeks after he was shot twice in the back and legs after intervening in a fight at Maksim's.

Battered wives deserve justice

THE murder of Vandana Patel in Stoke Newington police station, the killing of Trisha Newton in a women's refuge in Doncaster and the appeal cases of Kiranjit Ahluwalia, Amelia Rossiter and Sara Thornton have brought the issue of domestic violence into our homes.

But still very little is being done to address the problem. The police still do not like to get involved with "domestic matters" and there are too few women's refuges to deal with the problem.

The stereotype of a victim of domestic violence is often that of an ill-educated, working-class woman. But this is not true. She may be a doctor's wife, or a lawyer's wife. She may come from a middle-class background, have attended the best schools and be independently wealthy. Domestic violence is not class-bound, it transcends social barriers.

Many women have endured their partner's ill-treatment for years, sometimes in the hope that they will change. And if they have children sometimes women will stay in order not to disrupt the kids' lives. Some women fear they will not be able to cope financially. So, it is very difficult for them to just up and go.

Quite often, children are oblivious to their parents' problems and do not witness the scenes of violence. But those who do are scarred by the experience for the rest of their lives.

A lot of people ask why a wo-



man stays in a negative relationship. However, quite often women in this predicament have lost their self-esteem and feel worthless.

They even start to believe that they deserve the treatment they receive. And, even though they realise that the situation is wrong, they live in the hope that there will be a change for the better. But there rarely is. A man who hits his partner once is likely to do so again. Domestic violence begins with the first blow, or act of intimidation.

I do not dismiss the fact that men also suffer at the hands of partners who abuse them physically and psychologically. But there are relatively few.

Many men would never hit their partners, or even think of doing so. But there are many who do hit their partners and see nothing wrong with doing so.

Women like Sara Thornton and Kiranjit Ahluwalia who suffered years of beatings and finally retali-

ated now find themselves incarcerated with long prison sentences ahead of them.

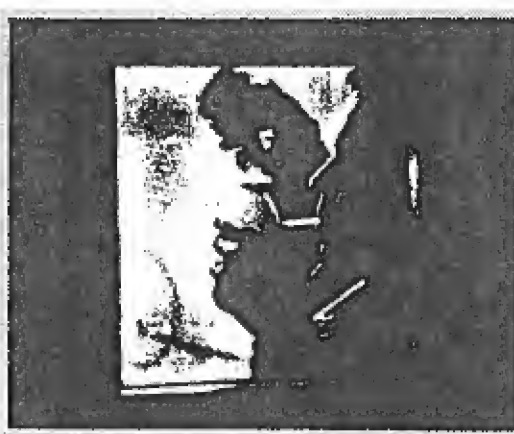
The fact that they have been beaten, sometimes until they are unconscious, have lost teeth and been bruised beyond recognition does not seem to matter.

Don't get me wrong, there is little justification for taking another person's life. But after years of being provoked it is understandable that a person will retaliate.

The fight for justice for Vandana Patel and Trisha Newton will continue. And so it should.

Diane Abbott

MG 28.8.92



STOKEYCOKEY!

Regular readers of this paper might remember our mention of Sergeant Geoff Carroll from Stoke Newington nick in north London. Geoff had proved himself to be a top markeman when he put his pistol in his mouth and pulled the trigger.

Amazingly enough he didn't miss his tiny brain and he killed himself! At the time we said that Geoff had done the sensible thing because the shit was just about to hit the fan concerning extremely dodgy dealings at Stoke nick. Well, guess what - we were right! The shit has hit the fan. Even toady local MP, Brian "Gobshite" Sedgemore has jumped on the bandwagon, stating in parliament that: "Carroll was involved in organised crime". Remember where you read it first...and there's more!

The latest revelations concerned a mysterious "Officer X" who was apparently raking in up to £2000 a week through dealing crack. "Officer X" had a nice little scam going: he'd nick people for drugs, keep most of the drugs and then resell them through his contacts! On top of this, he was planting drugs on people he wanted to nick (so he could have a good arrest record and cut down on any competition) and using drugs to get information. This bastard started bringing crack into Hackney in 1988, which means he was one of the first to bring this drug and its associated crime and misery into the area. Once again the cops were the ones who

created our problems.

NAMING NAMES

All the papers refused to name him... apart from us! This so-called "Officer X" is none other than Roy Lewandowski, formerly of the Drugs Squad and now charged with theft and VAT fraud amounting to a mere £5,000,000 as well. Back in April last year Lewandowski was doing well - he had just received a bravery award for some "heroic" policing act. How the mighty are fallen! It's almost enough to make us cry if we weren't laughing so much!

ROTTEN BARREL

But now that Lewandowski is down in the dirt and looking at a serious stretch, his cop mates have tried to totally disown him and are hoping that he'll carry the can. Unfortunately for them at least another 27 of his colleagues have been suspended for their part in similar activities! The corruption at Stoke Newington nick is notorious: from drug dealing to killing people. Stoke cops are widely known to be complete bastards. Now that this has come out into the open with all these revelations, they are hoping that they can blame Lewandowski and a few other fell guys for being very bad apples in the barrel - they think we're stupid enough to believe the rest of the barrel is just fine!

BASTARDS

The cops might try a cover-up but it's obvious that the whole barrel is completely rotten through and through. Even if these cops weren't crooked they'd still be bastards, because that's the role of a copper - that's what they're paid to do, to shit on us and keep us down. All we can suggest to them is to do the right thing... do the Carroll thing...and we'll do the right thing.

CLASS WAR NO. 9
SEPT. 92

Helping the victims of domestic violence

WHILE I agree with Hackney North MP Diane Abbott that much needs to be done to protect and help the victims of domestic violence (Talking Point, August 28), she is wide of the mark so far as the police response is concerned.

The Domestic Violence Unit at Stoke Newington police station opened in May, 1988, and since then has helped 2,464 victims, the vast majority of them women. So far this year, 440 victims have turned to us for help and have found we are willing to listen, offer a range of contacts with other agencies and have a positive attitude to arrest and prosecution.

Hundreds of people, mostly men, have been convicted in consequence. Our willingness to help does not stop there and our officers serve as an ever-ready help and information service long after the initial trauma has been dealt with.

Almost all of London's police divisions now have similar units and all will have them in the near future. Let those who chose to practise domestic violence know they face almost certain arrest and probable conviction once we become involved.

Those who are aware of the background of the tragic death of Vandana Patel (and Ms Abbott is one of them) will know that it was our willingness to become involved and extend a helping hand to other caring agencies which created the circumstances leading to her murder. The messages of support at that time from those agencies and from victims helped by our officers served as testimony to their efforts. — ROY CLARK, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT, STOKE NEWINGTON POLICE STATION.

Full-time task for six police officers

THE issue of domestic violence is a very real issue, as my officers and I are fully aware. I share some of the views put forward by Diane Abbott. Within Hackney borough police area, it is the full-time task of six police officers to try to deal sensitively with and impact upon this very complex human problem.

The six officers do not work alone. They utilise the resources of hundreds of other officers, including detectives working shifts, and use the computer-aided despatch control rooms at Hackney and Stoke Newington to flag up to shift workers around-the-clock issues concerning people at risk in the domestic environment.

All officers are reminded constantly of the need to consider actively the option of arresting the aggressor in the domestic environment, even in some circumstances if the aggression has merely amounted to verbal aggression. But let us not mince words about this. It is mainly men who knock women about in the domestic set-up. Men must learn or be taught to control their aggression, otherwise they are likely to be arrested.

It may interest readers to hear that over recent months one of my most experienced, hard-working and skilful detective sergeants has dealt with five separate allegations of domestic rape in Hackney.

Investigation of this type of allegation is painstaking and very labour intensive. My resources are finite. Officers dealing with domestic violence are diverted from dealing with robbery and burglary.

Of the five cases of domestic rape mentioned, after full investigation and submission of case papers by police, three were not proceeded with by the Crown Prosecution Service. Only one has gone to trial. The trial was bitter and acrimonious. The circumstances of the rape were, in my view, diabolical, yet the jury took about five minutes to return a verdict of not guilty.

It is frustrating enough for my officers trying to do this job without the additional jibe from our MP that officers are not doing enough. — BERNARD TAFFS, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT, HACKNEY & CITY ROAD POLICE STATIONS.

Police try new ideas

THE police recognise there is a major drugs problem in Hackney. Cannabis, heroin and crack cocaine are all sold openly in different parts of the borough.

Last year, 118 people were charged with possessing crack, and 141 for possessing other drugs such as Ecstasy and amphetamines. This is more than triple the number just two years ago. And this year, for the first time, young people under 17 have been picked up for crack.

It is not just drugs possession and supply that are causing concern. Drug-related crime is also believed to be increasing, as some users turn to burglary and robbery to feed habits that can cost as much as £100 a day.

One police officer has attributed 90 per cent of street crime to drugs. Drug agencies think this is an overestimate, but it may partly explain why street robberies rose by almost 50 per cent last year to 1,496 reported cases.

So what are the police doing to tackle the drugs problem? Or is it just a matter of time before we see dealers on every street corner?

Hackney's top policeman, Chief Supt Bernard Taffs, says 68 dealers were arrested on his patch last year, and he points to closer links with the community and specialist drug services as examples of the many initiatives being taken by the police.

Community liaison officer, Insp Mark Ricketts, regularly attends meetings with local community groups to hear what police action they want. Out of this has come two police shops, one on the Haggerston Estate and another in Sandringham Road.

Despite accusations that police presence simply moves the problem to another area, Insp Ricketts says: "Dis-

placing dealers, even if it is nearby, is good for the community and prevents the dealer from being identified with a particular area."

Last year, an area drugs squad was set up to tackle the big-time drug dealers operating in the area. It has its eye on 100 dealers and now not a week goes by without a raid, seizures and arrests.

Although the police's primary role is law enforcement, they realise locking up users will fail to stop the habit and the crime that goes with it. In 1988, the police were directed to take a more lenient line with cannabis users and only charge dealers.

Now they are saying that in "suitable cases" the police will not prosecute drug-taking youngsters charged with more serious offences, if they agree to attend a drop-in centre for counselling.

This thinking, which was also behind the Probation Service's first-ever eight-week drug-counselling session for clients — is in line with the new Criminal Justice Act which comes into force from October. One of its conditions is that offenders can be ordered to attend a drug service while on probation instead of going to prison.

Future police preventative action includes the youth and community section formulating a drugs programme with the education authority, and producing a drugs information leaflet which all offenders will receive on arrest.

On the enforcement side, the police are hoping to introduce sector policing in January. A more personalised approach to law enforcement, it breaks the divisions into smaller patches, creates more localised stations and puts every officer on the beat.

Chief Supt Taffs says he is confident that these measures will help crack Hackney's drug problems.

ALISON BENJAMIN reports on the methods being adopted to tackle Hackney's drug problem



● Pcs David Langdon, Charlie Hill and Mick Worsfold — fighting the war against drugs.

HC
4.9.92

Swoop on garages nets half a million in fake notes

Cops nab fortune in funny money

OPS investigating a major crime syndicate discovered £500,000 in counterfeit £50 notes in an underground lock-up garage on a London Fields council estate on Tuesday.

The dawn raid on the dimly-lit lock-up beneath Rochford Walk in the Blackstone Estate co-incided with swoops at addresses all over London and the Home Counties in which a deadly arsenal of

weapons was seized, including high-powered rifles, explosives and sub-machine guns.

It followed a 10-month investigation by regional crime squad detectives in London, the Home Counties, Dorset, Devon and the Thames Valley.

In addition to the fake £50 notes found in the lock-up, detectives also found counterfeit US dollar bills and sophisticated printing plates.

Sackloads of other false documents were also found, including

passports, birth certificates, driving licences, forged MOT certificates and even disabled parking permits.

Detectives say the banknotes were extremely good forgeries and would have been sold for £30 each on the black market.

Tenants living above the underground garage were stunned to discover they had been sining on the stash.

"I was gobsmacked when I saw it on the TV news," said motor spare parts manager, Bob

Young, 51.

"I park my car in the garages and have never noticed anything suspicious."

The 60 garages are available for rent from Hackney Council to anyone for £5 a month, not just tenants on the estate.

Nineteen people out of a total of 27 held by police, appeared at Thames Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, charged with various offences including firearm charges, counterfeiting, conspiracy and handling stolen property.

Pub meeting on human rights

HACKNEY rights campaigners are holding a public meeting at Stoke Newington's Samuel Beckett pub on Wednesday night with the demand, Redress For All State Abuse.

The meeting has been organised by the local group of Charter 88 at Hackney reels from two of the biggest scandals ever to hit Hackney - a major Metropolitan Police investigation into allegations of drug dealing and bribery involving Stoke Newington police and Hackney Council's cash-for-keys rumpus.

Gill Macrae of Charter 88 said: "There are many examples of both alleged and actual misuse of authority by public bodies."

"The subject is particularly pertinent in Hackney at the moment with the

drugs allegations against Stoke Newington police and council employees allegedly involved in council housing key money abuse."

Speakers will include Martin Wright from Victim Support talking about compensation for victims of state abuse, Stephen Cragg from Hackney Law Centre and the Hackney Community Defence Association will discuss their role in monitoring and publicising abuse by local public authorities.

And Anne Owens, director of national pressure group, Justice, will also be speaking.

Everyone is welcome at the meeting which kicks off at 7.30pm at the pub on the corner of Stoke Newington High Street and Church Street.

Protection racket link to shopkeeper stabbings

DETECTIVES are probing a protection racket link to the stabbing of two Vietnamese shopkeepers in their Dalston super-market.

Police at Stoke Newington believe organised crime could be behind an extortion racket similar to the protection rings run by the notorious Chinese Triad gangs.

It follows the knifing of shopkeeper Bao Tri Hoang, 27, and his 18-year-old assistant, Twan Trian, at their Oriental Spices store in Kingsland High Street last month.

Despite suffering a punctured lung, the stabbed teenager chased one of the two knifemen along the street with blood pouring from his wound.

The knifemen, who were also Vietnamese, had demanded money from the pair, but when they refused Mr Trian was stabbed in the chest, while Mr Hoang received a superficial chest wound and cuts to his hands and arms.

Despite blood gushing from his chest the brave teenager pursued one of the knifemen as he ran off along Bentley Road

to a waiting dark green BMW getaway car.

The second knifeman ran off along Kingsland Road towards Tottenham Road, where police have their last sighting of him.

"We are looking into the theory that there is a protection racket link," said Det Cons, Richard Harris, "but that is only one of several avenues of inquiry we are pursuing."

"It was late afternoon and a busy time and many shoppers witnessed the knifemen running off."

Detectives have issued descriptions of the two men. Both are described as of Vietnamese appearance.

The one who stabbed the teenager and made off in a getaway car is aged 25, 5ft 7ins tall, of medium build, with black hair and wearing a black suit.

The other is aged 20, 5ft 7ins tall, with a slim build.

Anyone who has any information on the stabbings should contact Stoke Newington CID, on 071 488 7271.



● The crashed police car after it mounted a traffic island and hit a lamppost in Kingsland Road.

Emergency police car skids to avoid mother and child

A POLICE driver on an emergency call steered into a lamppost to avoid a young mum and her 18-month-old daughter who had just stepped off a pavement in Haggerston on Wednesday afternoon.

Pc Trevor Isaacs and Pc Carl Beasley, from City Road police station, were driving down the wrong side of Kingsland Road at 3.40pm towards a disturbance in the City, when the incident occurred.

Quick-thinking Pc Isaacs swerved onto the central reservation near the junction with Nuttall Street when he saw the woman step into the road.

Later, Marie Cones, aged 32, and her daughter, Ann-Marie, of Meridan House on the nearby Whitmore Estate, in Philipp Street, were described as shaken but unhurt by police.

Traffic was delayed in the area for 15 to 20 minutes.

Insp Martin Mitchell, of City Road police station said: "There are dangers in driving to emergency calls. However, police drivers are trained to deal with them, and the driver is made to understand he is responsible for his actions."



● Mum Marie Cones, shaken but unhurt after her ordeal.

45
11.9.92

Policeman puts his ordeal behind him

STABBED rookie cop, Pc Ian Slaney, hasn't let his nightmare ordeal shake his confidence.

As soon as he was pronounced medically fit for duty again he was back at work.

"I was on light duties in the office for a month, so I could be eased back in gradually," he said.

"I went out on the streets accompanied by an officer and

have to admit I backed down on a couple of occasions when things got a bit dodgy, but I've got over it quite well.

"I received special counselling from the Met's medical officers, as well as physiotherapy, but I never thought of leaving the job for one minute. I really enjoy it and hope to do my full 30 years."

Pc Slaney, who has been back patrolling Hackney's streets for the past year, says the place is

not as bad as people outside the borough make out.

"What happened to me makes you much more aware of the dangers, but Hackney has got a reputation it doesn't really deserve," he said.

"At police training school when the postings are announced there is a groan and an 'oh, no!' If you're sent to Hackney, but it really isn't as bad as people make out."

During the knife attack the 21-

year-old Pc was slashed across the forehead, stabbed under the left arm and suffered five stab wounds to his side and back.

"The injuries were not as serious as first thought," he added. "When I staggered back to Hackney police station and collapsed on the floor of the foyer I could hear my colleagues radioing for me to be air-lifted by helicopter to the London Chest Hospital and I thought 'blimey, I must be in a bad way'."

Pc Slaney is now in line to receive a commissioner's commendation after the Old Bailey judge praised him for trying to disarm crazed schizophrenic David Moss, despite having already been stabbed.

"You could say I stopped the right person, but the wrong person that day. He was armed with a knife and out to do something that day and I may well have prevented him harming a civilian."



● Pc Ian Slaney, back at work.

Judge praises rookie copper who faced a crazed knife thug

AN OLD Bailey judge praised a teenage rookie policeman who was stabbed eight or nine times as he tackled a schizophrenic knifeman.

"It must have been a very frightening experience for a young inexperienced officer on his own," said Judge Graham Laughland QC of Pc Ian Slaney who is stationed at Hackney.

"I think he deserves the highest commendation and I hope it's brought to the attention of the Commissioner," the judge added.

The brave 19-year-old Pc was repeatedly stabbed with a Gurkha knife by David Moss, 25, of Anderson Road, Wyke Estate, Homerton, on June 26 last year when he stopped him on suspicion of theft near St John's churchyard only yards from Hackney police station.

Pc Slaney was on his first day of street patrol alone.

Judge Laughland accepted Moss's plea of guilty to unlawful wounding after reading reports that Moss was a paranoid schizophrenic.

On the original charge of attempted murder, Moss was found not guilty and the judge ordered that a charge of wounding with intent should lie on the file.

The court heard that Pc Slaney saw Moss acting suspiciously and was attacked when he tried to search him.

Moss took out a Kukri knife, a weapon used by the famous Gurkha regiment, and screamed: "Right, that's it. I'm going to kill you."

Three witnesses, including an 11-year-old schoolboy, watched "in absolute horror" as Pc Slaney was stabbed in the head and back.

At an earlier hearing, the young cop told the court how he feared he

was going to die as the blade repeatedly plunged into him.

"He was very aggressive. He was shouting that he was going to kill me. He was really hyped up and I could see in his eyes that he meant it," said Pc Slaney.

"I knew that I had to get the knife off him there and then or I would be killed."

Finally, Pc Slaney managed to free himself and ran the 150 yards to Hackney police station while calling for assistance on his radio. He ran in through the back door of the station and collapsed.

As a result of his injuries, the officer was off work for two-and-a-half months.

In a police interview, Moss seemed surprised that Pc Slaney had survived the attack and was said to have added: "The officer got what he deserved."

HC

11.9.92

Police suspend third officer

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A THIRD officer from the London police station at the centre of a corruption inquiry has been suspended from duty, it was confirmed yesterday.

Scotland Yard did not name the officer, but it is understood that he is Detective Constable Barry Lyons.

Mr Lyons was an arresting officers in the case of Dennis Tulloch, who was jailed for four years last September for possession with intent to supply crack cocaine. Mr Tulloch, who is preparing an appeal against his conviction, claims that officers from Stoke Newington police station in east London planted the drugs with him.

He is one of many who have made allegations that police from the station have planted drugs and fabricated evidence.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police anti-corruption branch, under Superintendent Ian Russell, have interviewed him in Operation Jackpot, which has been examining allegations of police involvement in drugs since April last year.

Two constables from Stoke Newington, Ronald Palumbo and Bruce Galbraith, were suspended in June. Another officer faces trial on serious charges. Eight officers were transferred from the station in January.

It was PC Palumbo and Mr Lyons who arrested Mr Tulloch outside a Ladbrokes betting office in 1990. Mr Lyons was

also involved in the case of Ida Oderinde, who has lodged grounds for appeal against her conviction for drug dealing in August last year.

Scotland Yard confirmed last night that a third officer from Stoke Newington has been suspended, and that the officer was one of the eight transferred as a result of Operation Jackpot. The inquiry, scheduled to finish in June, is said to be "ongoing."

Last month the Crown Prosecution Service offered no evidence in the case of Tony Wood, who was formally acquitted at Snaresbrook crown court of possession of cannabis with intent to supply.

Prosecuting counsel told the trial judge that PC Palumbo would not be giving evidence because he could not be relied on as a "witness of truth." PC Palumbo did not attend court because he was said to be ill with depression.

In June the prosecution dropped a case of possession of the drug diamorphine against Dennis Bramble of Shadwell, east London, because of concern over the credibility of the prosecution witnesses, who were officers from Stoke Newington station.

The latest suspension is likely to bring moves for further appeals in connected cases. Defence lawyers have asked the CPS not to proceed with cases involving suspended officers.

Officers at Stoke Newington station say the majority of allegations have been made by people with convictions for drugs offences.

GUARDIAN

12.9.92

Justice in the dock

In an exclusive interview from Holloway Prison, Ida Oderinde tells how she was 'fitted up' by Stoke Newington policemen now under suspicion of drug dealing. The police have launched an inquiry into the case, but Oderinde remains behind bars. *Denis Campbell reports.*



'Why have they still got me locked up?', Ida Oderinde demands angrily. 'I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had committed a crime.

But I'm being punished for having spoken out, for exposing corruption among police officers.'

Oderinde is furious about the 'injustice' of her continuing incarceration in Holloway Prison. When she made allegations of drug dealing and planting by police in Stoke Newington, Scotland Yard deemed them credible enough to launch Operation Jackpot, its biggest anti-corruption inquiry for years.

But when Oderinde says she was 'fitted up' by some of the same police officers now under suspicion, the authorities won't believe her.

Oderinde is serving four years for alleged heroin dealing, a crime she denies. She said: 'I'm good enough to be a witness against corrupt police officers yet my word isn't good enough to get me out on to the streets'.

Her hands lay on table 19 in the busy, smokey interview room of Holloway women's jail, her voice rising and falling with the intensity of feeling she expressed.

It would be easy to dismiss as malicious fantasy the sensational tales of police involvement in organised crime told by the 33-year-old, Nigerian-born mother-of-three. Yet her allegations — made last November during a day-long interview in prison with Detective Superintendent Ian Russell, the officer leading Operation Jackpot — led Scotland Yard to broaden the inquiry. Before then, Jackpot had concentrated on the criminal activities of just one Stoke Newington officer. After taking a detailed statement from Oder-

inde, Russell began investigating her claims of drug dealing and systematic drug planting by a large group of officers at the north London police station.

The Superintendent took her seriously enough to ask if, in the event

'I'm good enough to be a witness against corrupt police officers yet my word isn't good enough to get me back out on to the streets'.

of police officers facing criminal charges, she would give evidence. She said 'yes'.

Since then the Stoke Newington police and drugs scandal has grown into what, as *Time Out* revealed in June, an assistant commissioner at the Yard has called 'the worst case of corruption in the Met for a decade'. So far:

- One officer, said to have earned up to £2,000 a week from drug dealing, has been charged with theft and VAT fraud.
- Eight drugs squad officers have been transferred to other stations.
- Three of the eight have been suspended from duty. In June, *Time Out* revealed the suspension of DC

Ronald Palumbo and PC Bruce Galbraith for alleged perjury; last week, PC Barry Lyons was suspended too.

● Palumbo and Lyons were the officers who claimed during Oderinde's trial that they found heroin in a disused fridge in her home in Hackney — days after she threatened to expose police drug dealing. Galbraith was also involved in the raid.

Oderinde told her trial in August 1991 how a year before she had seen her friend Pearl Cameron — a big-time crack dealer on Sandringham Road, Hackney's 'Front Line' — receive a bag full of 'rocks' of crack from two police officers. She also insisted that although she used heroin, she did not sell it and it had been planted on her. The jury refused to believe either story.

Two years after her arrest, however, Oderinde's first claim has been vindicated. When Pearl Cameron was sentenced in July, her counsel, Robin Grey QC — in a statement agreed with Crown counsel — told Snaresbrook Crown Court that information received from Ida Oderinde had led to Operation Jackpot being widened.

Her second claim, that she was 'planted' by bent police officers who were desperate to shut her up, is harder to prove. It is her word against theirs.

This week Oderinde expects to learn if she will be granted leave to appeal against her conviction for conspiracy to supply heroin, and be given bail.

If she is granted leave to appeal, Oderinde will be the first of dozens of 'victims' of alleged drug planting by Stoke Newington police to have her case reviewed. Others — notably Dennis Tulloch and Rennie Kingsley — are also seeking to appeal. If Oderinde does walk free, the embarrassment to the police will be massive and the lid will be lifted on Britain's biggest police corruption scandal for years.

In the meantime, her main concern is rebuilding her relationship with her three children. There is also the threatened repossession of her house by Hackney Council for rent arrears — another part of the trauma of being in prison for something she insists she did not do.

The suspension last week of PC Lyons can only help Oderinde's case. But she is annoyed that he, and the other officers suspended or transferred, receive a different standard of justice to her. 'Those that have done wrong are out there, free. They're still getting paid as well. I'm in here suffering. I don't see the justice in that.'



DENNIS TULLOCH, a black man from Stoke Newington, north London, is reading *Eye* articles on the police force in his area with more than cursory interest.

Tulloch is in prison for four years after being convicted of possession of crack cocaine with intent to supply it. Three police officers gave evidence that they were "on observation duty" in Sandringham Road on 11 September 1990, when they saw two black men "engaged in what appeared to be an exchange" outside the Ladbroke betting shop.

They rushed up to arrest the men, but one escaped and the other, Mr Tulloch, rushed into the betting shop. Two of the officers followed him, grabbed him and took him back into the street. Mr Tulloch was searched and eight wraps of cocaine were found on him.

Mr Tulloch said this was all nonsense. He said he never had drugs on him; that the police arrested him inside the betting shop, which they raided; and that they then blatantly planted the drugs. It was a straight case of the word of three police officers against one black man. Even so, there were difficulties with the police case.

All three officers insisted in court that the distance at which they saw the "exchange" was 30 to 50 feet. The prosecution, however, was forced to admit that the distance was 175 feet — and the evidence of the "exchange" was withdrawn. Nevertheless, the officers were adamant that the drugs were found on Mr Tulloch and the jury convicted him by a majority of 10 to 2.

What interests Mr Tulloch is the subsequent career of the police who convicted him, in particular PC Ronald Palumbo. He is one of eight police officers recently transferred from Stoke Newington in order to "facilitate" the inquiry being conducted by Det Supt Ian Russell of Scotland Yard into allegations of a protection racket and drug planting at Stoke Newington police station. On 17 June, PC Palumbo was suspended from duty.

The manner of his suspension is further testimony to the tremendous efficiency and promptness of the Crown Prosecution Service.

In December last year at Snaresbrook Crown Court, PC Palumbo gave evidence against a man called Paul Noel. When a fellow officer gave almost identical evidence in rather curious circumstances, Judge Pitman recalled Palumbo and suggested to him that he had colluded with the other officer after giving his evidence — despite knowing that he should not do so.

Palumbo denied the allegation, which as the case proceeded became clearer and clearer. Finally Judge Pitman recalled Palumbo and again put the collusion to him. When Palumbo denied it once more, the judge was furious. It was, he said, "perfectly plain" that Palumbo was lying on oath, and he told him in no uncertain terms that if that were proved to be so, it was a "very, very serious" matter.

The judge promptly sent the papers to the Crown Prosecution Service. Seven months later the CPS leapt into action and PC Palumbo was suspended. Mr Tulloch — and who knows how many others in prison at least partly because of what PC Palumbo said in court — is wondering how long he must wait to find if the transferred and suspended officer is to be charged with the perjury of which he was accused by a judge in open court.

PRIVATE EYE

18.9.92

Police keep watch at hospital bedside

Shot robbery suspect faces armed guard

A SUSPECTED bank robber who was shot twice in a gun battle with police is under armed guard in Homerton Hospital this week.

Cops with machine guns surrounded a Hackney pub last Thursday evening, after a tip-off that the injured bandit was holed up there.

The stake-out, at the Flying Scud pub in Hackney Road, followed a dramatic chase 30 minutes earlier in which the raider was hit twice in the arm by a pursuing police marksman, who accidentally also shot himself in the groin as he leapt from a patrol car.

The chase began when armed police swooped to arrest suspects outside the National Westminster Bank in Bow.

Two officers in an unmarked police Range Rover chased two suspects into Grove Hall Park and managed to capture one, but as Pc John Benson, 25, jumped from the car to chase the other suspect, his gun went off shooting him in the groin.

But the brave bobby continued to give chase and shot the fleeing bandit twice in the arm. The wounded robber managed to escape, however, by jumping into a waiting getaway

car driven by a third man.

Acting on a tip-off, police marksmen from Scotland Yard's crack Tactical Firearms Group ringed the Flying Scud pub 30 minutes later. The suspect who had been shot was arrested as he left the pub.

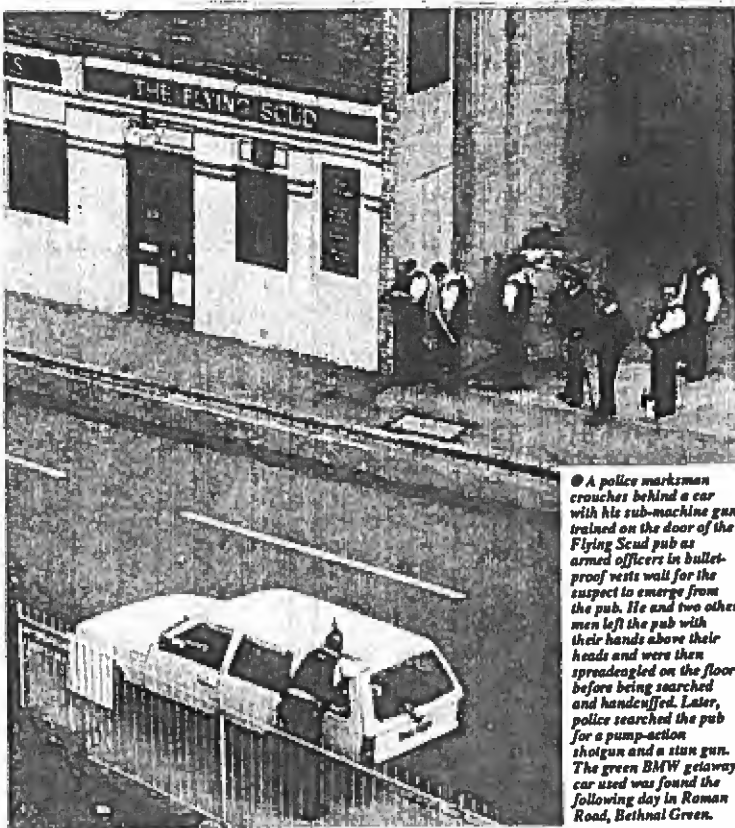
The shot Pc was in a stable condition this week at the Royal London

Story by
RUSS LAWRENCE

Picture by
WILLIAM BRYCE

Hospital, Whitechapel.

A 35-year-old council worker appeared at Thames Magistrates' Court on Saturday, charged with conspiracy to rob. Two other men arrested by police at the pub have been released on police bail, along with another man who was arrested in Stepney at the weekend.



● A police marksman crouches behind a car with his sub-machine gun trained on the door of the Flying Scud pub as armed officers in bullet-proof vests wait for the suspect to emerge from the pub. He and two other men left the pub with their hands above their heads and were then spreadeagled on the floor before being searched and handcuffed. Later, police searched the pub for a pump-action shotgun and a stun gun. The green BMW getaway car used was found the following day in Roman Road, Bethnal Green.

HC

18.9.92

Judge frees man jailed in drugs case

Andrew Harrold

A MAN convicted of drugs offences on the basis of evidence secured by London police officers at the centre of a corruption inquiry was last night freed by the High Court.

Dennis Tulloch, jailed for four years last September for possessing crack cocaine with intent to supply, was granted bail and permission to apply for leave to appeal against his conviction after a two-hour private hearing before Lord Justice McEwan. The application was not opposed by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Tulloch, aged 43, has been in Mount Prison, Hertfordshire, since being convicted. He was expected home in Hackney, east London, last night.

Rod Novy, a solicitor acting for Mr Tulloch, said he expected a flood of appeal cases involving other convictions secured by officers from Stoke Newington police station, in north London.

"This is tantamount to an admission by the Crown Prosecution Service that my client's conviction was unsafe and unsatisfactory. This case will be used by others to support their appeals."

Mr Tulloch is one of a number of people who have alleged that officers from Stoke New-

ington planted drugs on them and fabricated evidence.

He was arrested outside a betting office in 1990 by Detective Constable Barry Lyons, who has since been suspended and questioned by officers from the Metropolitan Police anti-corruption branch.

Mr Lyons was also involved in the case of Ida Oderinde, who has lodged grounds for appeal against her conviction for drug dealing in April last year.

Scotland Yard's anti-corruption branch, under Superintendent Ian Russell, has been examining allegations of police involvement in drugs since April last year. Eight officers have been transferred from Stoke Newington. Another faces trial on serious charges.

Mr Novy said last night Mr Tulloch's legal team hoped to complete work on the grounds for appeal once the inquiry had ended.

His hearing would not be heard until then. "But given what has happened today, I can not imagine that it will be opposed by the Crown," he added.

Graham Smith, of the Hackney Families Defence Association, which has been campaigning on behalf of alleged victims of planted drugs, said yesterday's ruling would trigger a number of similar applications. "Hopefully this will be the first of many cases which will reach the Court of Appeal."

GUARDIAN

19.9.92

Clarke calls for sacking of lazy police

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

LAZY and incompetent police officers can no longer be allowed to put their colleagues and members of the public at risk, the Home Secretary told senior officers yesterday. He also suggested that police authorities are unlikely to continue in their present form.

Speaking at the Police Superintendents Association annual conference in Blackpool, Kenneth Clarke ruled out a national police force and promised measures to deal with New Age travellers and persistent young offenders.

He told delegates there was an understandable reluctance to deal with the shortcomings of colleagues in a way which might mean they lost their jobs.

"But this nettle has to be grasped. It is quite simply not fair either to other police officers or the public they serve to put them at risk by failing to deal with poor performance."

He was not suggesting that the only way to deal with poor performers was to get rid of them. That would be a wasteful approach. But an officer's shortcomings should be identified at an early stage so he or she could improve and develop.

"We have to accept, however, ... that there will be people

who are simply unable to achieve these standards," he said. "These people ought not, for their own sakes as well of those of their colleagues and the public, to remain as police officers."

Mr Clarke said that he was working with other police associations to ensure that such officers were always dealt with fairly and sensitively.

The Home Secretary said he was not convinced that a local involvement in police forces was best achieved by the current system of police authorities. While a local lay input was essential, he wanted to ensure that such structures helped rather than hindered change.

He ruled out a national police force and said he did not envisage an operational arm for the newly formed National Criminal Intelligence Service.

The Home Secretary expressed his reservations about the American-style side-handled baton, which the police would like.

He promised action against New Age travellers and ravers. He also accepted that there was considerable public concern about persistent young offenders and promised new measures to deal with them.

Shadow home secretary Tony Blair later accused Mr Clarke of trying to shift the blame for the crime figures from the Government to the police.

GUARDIAN

23.9.92

Victim of 'corrupt' police goes free



Scandal-hit Stoke Newington police suffered a new blow last week with the freeing of the first 'victim' of alleged drug planting by 'corrupt' drugs

squad officers at the north London station.

Dennis Tulloch was released last Friday after the High Court took the unusual step of granting him bail even before he has applied for leave to appeal against his conviction for crack dealing.

Rod Novy, one of Tulloch's solicitors, said: 'Dennis Tulloch is out on bail and no longer serving a sentence for something for which he ought not to have been convicted. I'm very optimistic that his conviction will now be quashed when it comes to the Appeal Court.'

The move is likely to lead to other convicted dealers, all of whom claim they were framed by police, taking similar action — and may lead to criminal charges against certain officers.

Tulloch, who was serving a four-year sentence for possession of crack with intent to supply, has always maintained that he was planted with nine 'rocks' of the drug by police. His case was first highlighted by *Time Out* in February, a week after eight officers were moved out of Stoke Newington for alleged corruption involving drug dealing, planting drugs on suspects and theft.

Scotland Yard launched an urgent inquiry into the allegations, called Operation Jackpot, led by Detective Superintendent Ian Russell of its Complaints Investigation Branch.

Both the officers who claimed they found the drugs on Tulloch when he was arrested in September 1990 — DC Barry Lyons and PC Ronald Palumbo — have since been suspended from duty.

Time Out revealed in June that Palumbo had been suspended for alleged perjury at the trial last December of another alleged drug dealer, Paul Noel. The judge was so concerned at the quality of police evidence that he stopped the trial.

Concern over Palumbo recently forced the Crown Prosecution Service to drop two further cases where he was due to give evidence. Last month, in the case of Anthony Wood, prosecuting counsel itself said the PC 'cannot be relied upon as a witness of the truth'.

DC Lyons was suspended from duty two weeks ago. *Time Out* can reveal that this was a direct result of Det Supt Russell writing to the Home Office to tell them that he had found new evidence which casts doubt on the safety of Tulloch's conviction.

Rod Novy said: 'Tulloch's conviction should not stand because grave doubts now exist about the evidence given at his trial by Palumbo and Lyons.'

His freeing is especially significant because of the date of Tulloch's arrest, September 1990. Dozens of other arrests for drug dealing made by the two officers after then could now be open to question — a horrendous prospect for the police.

Ida Oderinde, whose crucial role in the



launch of Operation Jackpot was detailed by *Time Out* last week, should be the next to gain her freedom pending an appeal.

Tulloch, 44, is likely to sue the Metropolitan Police for malicious prosecution and false imprisonment.

Denis Campbell and Catherine Pepinster

Bribery probe has attracted drug dealers

TOP COP has blasted that he calls scurrilous publicity over the bribery probe to eight Stoke Newington cops, and says it has attracted drug dealers to the area.

Chief Supt Roy Clark told last week's meeting of Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group that drug dealers had "come from all over the area" believing the area was now a safe haven for them.

Eight Stoke Newington policemen are currently the subject of a Grand Jury investigation into allegations of drug dealing and bribes.

tions in January following complaints by several people, among them convicted crack dealers and others accused of drugs offences. Two of the officers have since been suspended from duty.

Chief Supt Clark told the group that publicity surrounding the investigation had so discredited his officers that drug dealers had become "cocky," believing that Stoke Newington police would think twice about arresting them.

"Because of the scurrilous publicity given to the police investigation in some parts of the media, drug dealers are coming from far and wide," he said.

"I've always insisted people should wait until the allegations

have been investigated, and the outcome of the inquiry is known, before any judgements are made.

"Sadly, because of the sort of publicity police have been subjected to, there are more drug dealers on the streets than before."

Chief Supt Clark told the group that one of the drug dealers who made the original allegations had come back to the area and had been seen dealing drugs.

"He was found in possession of two ounces of drugs, but he promptly complained that police had planted them on him," he added.

"Fortunately, his arrest was witnessed by a member of the public, who was able to say that the dealer was in possession of the drugs."

Public's attitude to marital rape hampers police

HACKNEY'S police have been left frustrated in their efforts to prosecute husbands for marital rape because the public often refuses to believe it can happen.

Top cop, Chief Supt Bernard Talft, told last week's meeting of Hackney's Police Community

Consultative Group, that a great deal of effort went into bringing the cases to court.

But he said his officers were often left fed-up and disillusioned because nine times out of 10 juries acquitted the defendant.

He said domestic violence was a worrying problem and for some reason appeared to be on the increase in the summer months.

He said six officers were em-

ployed full-time in the borough to deal with reported cases of violence in the home.

But he said police were often frustrated when cases of marital rape were brought to court.

"A lot of effort and detective expertise is allocated in investigating these matters and bringing the cases to court," he said.

"But even when we put them before a jury they don't seem to

accept the seriousness of the matter or the circumstances.

"It is such a serious matter in my view and I cannot understand how a jury in a recent trial could have acquitted a husband who stuffed a rag so far down his wife's throat that she bled.

"Here we are ahead of public opinion and we feel the public needs to be made more aware of the issues."

They were transferred to other sta-



Glenda Lewis and her daughter outside the Wick Road flat.

Racists make life a misery

RACIST thugs have made the last four weeks a misery for a single mother and her two kids.

For seven years Glenda Lewis has lived happily in her ground-floor flat in Wick Road, Hornetum.

But four weeks ago she started receiving anonymous letters threatening her and her kids, aged 14 and four, and last week she woke up to find paint splattered all over a window, which had also been smashed.

She got in touch with Hackney po-

lice, who took copies of the letters and have confirmed they are carrying out inquiries.

The last straw came when she arrived home one day to find racist graffiti daubed around.

Mrs Lewis told the Gazette: "I am scared to walk around the streets with my kids. The council said they were going to come around to check the locks and fix the window, but nothing has happened."

"I have lived here for seven years without any problems. My kids have not been in any trouble. I have

had no bother with neighbours. I can't understand this - but the council say there is no need for me to be rehoused."

A Hackney Council spokesperson said: "Housing officials are aware of the situation and they confirm she has received abusive letters. Following these reports, a housing officer has interviewed her twice, but there is no indication that she is in any immediate danger. If the police advise that she is in danger, we will relocate her. We intend to repair her window and remove the graffiti."

Man is cleared of killing shopkeeper

A MAN accused of stabbing to death a loyal young shopkeeper in Stoke Newington, has been cleared of murder.

Carl Anthony, 24, maintained he was the victim of mistaken identity over the brutal slaying of Sundip Shah, 27, on February 6 this year.

Mr Shah paid with his life when he refused to hand over £800 of his employer's money to the knifeman.

Anthony, unemployed, of Beatty Road, Stoke Newington, showed no emotion as he was unanimously cleared of murder and manslaughter by an Old Bailey jury.

The case against Anthony rested entirely on the evidence of two women who had walked into the corner store in Green Lanes as the robbery took place.

Schoolteacher Frances Lofth caught a glimpse of the knifeman as she walked into the shop and later picked out An-

thony on an identity parade. But in court she said she was only 90 per cent sure she had identified the right man. She was unable to complete an identification of the killer.

Another regular customer, Lisa Dillon, spotted him walking from the nearby Burma Road Estate.

On an identity parade, she, too, identified Anthony as the knifeman.

But she later told police she knew Anthony vaguely from her estate, but had not recognised him on the day of the stabbing. There was no forensic evidence linking him to the crime.

Judge Henry Fownall, QC, warned the jury not to convict unless they were certain Anthony was the killer. If there was any doubt, they must acquit.

The jury returned a unanimous not guilty verdict on murder and manslaughter.

Pair freed

TWO people jailed on evidence from Stoke Newington cops at the centre of allegations of drug dealing and bribery have been freed on bail by the High Court. On Wednesday Judge Odehinde, jailed for four years for possession of heroin, was released and two weeks ago Denis Tulloch, serving four years for possession of crack, was bailed. Both are to appeal against sentence.

HC

25.9.92

Battered wife who killed wins freedom

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A WOMAN jailed for life for killing her violent husband by setting fire to him was yesterday freed at the Old Bailey after her plea of guilty to manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility was accepted.

Kiranjit Ahluwalia, aged 36, had been jailed for life at Lewes, crown court, East Sussex, in 1989 for killing her husband, Deepak. She left court yesterday to cheers from her supporters and the embraces of both her own and her husband's families. She was granted a re-trial by the Court of Appeal in July and her case became a *cause célèbre* in the debate on battered women who kill violent men.

"I am very, very pleased," she said. "I am still shocked." She was being reunited last night with her two young sons.

Mr Justice Hobhouse accepted her plea of guilty to manslaughter after hearing details of the systematic violence she had suffered over 10 years of marriage to her husband, a post office worker, at their home in Crawley, West Sussex.

"Justice does not require that you stay in prison any longer," said the judge. He accepted that she had suffered violence and abuse throughout her marriage but told her that "the crime was a terrible crime... killing your husband by a means which caused terrible pain".

He sentenced her to three years imprisonment which meant her immediate release, a decision greeted by loud applause from a packed public gallery.

Her barrister, Geoffrey Robertson, QC, told the court that a plea of diminished responsibility on the grounds of her mental state had not been entered at her original trial.

"Her ill-treatment produced a post traumatic stress," he said. "She has always accepted that what she did was a crime and a sin."

For the Crown, Robert Harman, QC, accepted the defence's plea and said that fresh expert medical evidence pointed clearly to her diminished responsibility at the time of killing.

"The Crown does not consider it is in the public interest to proceed further with the charge of murder," he said.

Last night, Pragna Patel, of Southall Black Sisters, who led the campaign to free Mrs Ahluwalia, said: "Kiranjit's experience is an indictment of our society, our families and our legal system." She called for an ending of the mandatory life sentence for murder and the reform of the homicide laws.

GUARDIAN

26.9.92

A force to be reckoned with

When Duncan Campbell called the police
he didn't realise his name spelt trouble

SINCE I am a journalist who has occasionally braved the Official Secrets Act it would be untrue to say I have always been on the right side of the law. But I had assumed that I could, when necessary, dial 999 with confidence. I had reckoned without the dangers of living in Stoke Newington, north London.

Earlier this year, the local police paid £67,000 in damages for violence against suspects and for false imprisonment. Another group of officers allegedly supplied seized drugs to a network of dealers whom they protected and controlled. A senior Scotland Yard officer had spoken of "the most serious corruption allegations for 20 years".

I was only dimly aware of these developments and thought they had nothing to do with me. One evening last June, I learnt differently.

I had returned home to hear a loud banging from the end wall of the house. Looking out, I saw two men from a nearby building site attacking the house foundations with some vigour. The boundaries of the house were inconvenient to a neighbouring property developer. Six weeks previously, he had bulldozed a large section of the boundary wall; it had been re-built at considerable expense.

I went out and politely asked the developer to call his men off. During our discussion, he gathered a pickaxe and swung it at the wall to emphasise his intentions. Perhaps foolishly, I placed myself between him and the wall. He continued swinging the axe, I pushed him away, he aimed the axe at me twice. I jumped over the wall, ran into the house, locked myself in an upstairs room and dialled 999.

Two police vehicles arrived within 12 minutes. After I explained what had happened, they went in search of the developer. When they returned it seemed they had lost interest in the pickaxe, its owner and the dents he had left in the wall. They arrested me.

At the police station, I was charged with causing actual bodily harm. Further, in the officers' view, I was too dangerous to be allowed out on the streets; for reasons of public safety, I would be kept in their cells overnight.

By now, understanding was dawning. I had given my profession as "journalist and TV producer". A young constable asked me: "Are you that journalist, Duncan Campbell?" I was flattered. Perhaps the constable remembered my controversial series on *The Secret Society*, shown on BBC2 in 1987. Perhaps he was even a *New Statesman* reader who remembered my exposés of phone-tapping in the intelligence services a decade ago. Yes, I said, I was that journalist.

But which journalist? Later, another officer asked: "Are you the Duncan Campbell who's been writing all this stuff that's given this station a bad name?" Yet another, taking my fingerprints, asked: "Have you been giving us all this grief?" Since I had never written about Stoke Newington police, I was baffled and told them so.

I should have guessed the truth earlier, but I had been out of England and had not been reading the London editions of the papers. I have a namesake

— Duncan Campbell, crime correspondent of the *Guardian*. For more than 15 years, we have suffered misrouted cheques and unwanted invitations. I

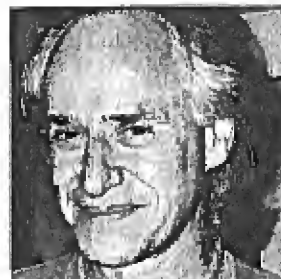
have been asked if I can arrange favours from his partner, who is Julie Christie, the actress; he has been asked to lecture on the Official Secrets Act.

Now things had taken a more serious turn. Just four days earlier, my namesake had published the latest in a series of reports exposing the corruption in Stoke Newington CID. And, in the same week, another journalist, called Denis Campbell, had reported further allegations in *Time Out*. Clearly, this was a bad moment for a journalist named D Campbell to call for police aid. Instantly jailing journalists is not, it is true, a conventional remedy for criticism in most parts of Britain. But this was Stoke Newington.

The following morning, magistrates granted me unconditional bail. But the matter did not rest there. Officers visited the pickaxe-wielding developer on several occasions, urging him, I was told, to press his complaint. He claimed



Double trouble: our writer (above) and his *Guardian* namesake (below)



that he had suffered a broken canine tooth but was "too busy" to submit to a dental examination. Two building workers had witnessed the incident. One, my solicitor was told, had been found and would give evidence in court. The police located the second witness the day before the case was due for trial — unfortunately, they said, he was in Jersey. I realised, when I got to court, that they did not have the first witness either. The man they produced was another building worker who was on site but did not see the attack.

At the last minute, the prosecution offered to drop charges if I would agree to be bound over to keep the peace. I accepted. I already had a stack of lawyers' bills and I was not confident that the magistrates would spot that the witnesses had, in effect, been rigged. It all seemed very unfair. But this was Stoke Newington — where it is bad news to be a reporter called Campbell.

Duncan Campbell now lives in Edinburgh.

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

27.9.92

Bar chairman urges watchdog for judges

A WATCHDOG to monitor judges' performance and bring those who are lazy, slow, or rude up to the mark was called for at the weekend by the leader of the 6,000 barristers in England and Wales.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, chairman of the Bar, said there was "no sufficient measuring of judicial qualities and expertise" once judges were appointed. This "topic of some delicacy" needed to be addressed.

Opening the Bar Council's annual conference in London on Saturday, he proposed a panel of lawyers, judges and laymen to investigate complaints about judges' in-court behaviour. He told a press conference later: "If a judge is appointed, I don't think he ought to have a freehold for 15 years. There ought to be some measure of his performance."

Other countries had judicial review bodies "to point out that if a judge is rude, slow, lazy, discourteous or insensitive, there might be some remedies".

The panel could initially speak to the judge whose performance was found wanting. If the advice was not heeded,

"there is no reason they shouldn't give advice to the Lord Chancellor saying this man isn't up to the job," Lord Williams said. "In serious disciplinary matters, there may have to be a recommendation for removal or suspension."

Lord Williams — formerly Gareth Williams — used his opening speech to attack the practice of using part-time judges in the High Court, branding it "insidious and probably unlawful". The High Court's increasing reliance on practising barristers sitting as part-time deputy High Court judges is a bone of contention between the Lord Chancellor and senior judges, who want more judges appointed.

"In most weeks in the Royal Courts of Justice, part-timers will be more numerous than High Court judges," Lord Williams said. "It devalues the system and causes enormous resentment and discontent among litigants."

Later he added: "It is completely impossible to justify the abuse of deputy High Court judges in the Royal Courts of Justice. Litigants want someone who is there full-time, not

part-timers busking for a few weeks a year."

He also condemned the practice of High Court judges sitting in the Court of Appeal, which he said would lead to inconsistency in sentencing. He urged earlier retirement ages — 70 for appeal judges and 65 at lower levels — with no right to come back as a part-timer.

Judges should receive more intensive and more structured training — current training was "disappointingly scanty" — and should be able to retire after 15 years' service. It was absurd for the Lord Chancellor at the same time to look for a younger judiciary and to increase to 20 years the length of service needed to qualify for a pension.

Calling for a properly independent review body to fix judges' pay, Lord Williams said: "It is pointless and I believe dangerous to have an allegedly independent body, which is then overruled by politicians. This is particularly so with the increasing development of judicial review controlling the executive in the interests of the individual, a development which is entirely judge-made."

Police 'losing faith as law tilts balance to accused'

POLICE are losing confidence in the criminal justice system because rules to protect the innocent are preventing the guilty from being brought to justice, John Evans, Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, told the conference.

Mr Evans, who led the inquiry into the conduct of the original Birmingham Six police investigation, said the pendulum had swung too far towards protection of the accused.

"I have hardly spoken to a police officer of any rank in recent years who is not losing confidence in the criminal justice system... The search for truth does not appear to be an objective of the English criminal justice process," he told a workshop on miscarriages of justice.

"The rules of evidence, designed to preclude unfair disclosure to a jury, have become a means of excluding what any ordinary and rational person — theoretically the very basis of the jury system — would regard as relevant and vital."

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act had become "a grossly bureaucratic and negative code working as often as not to conceal the truth and protect suspects from investigation". The rules were "leading to the situation in which none but the dim-witted and genuinely remorseful are likely to admit anything".

Mr Evans said the rules needed to be redrawn so police had a proper opportunity to interrogate suspects. Defendants should have to disclose their case in advance, and the jury should be told of their previous convictions and allowed to draw inferences from their silence under questioning.

Mr Evans said that where there was good but insufficient evidence, or powerful circumstantial evidence, there should be a means of bringing a defendant before an examining judge or magistrate with an inquisitorial role.

Judge Stephen Mitchell, QC, who was prosecuting counsel in the first Birmingham Six ap-

peal, told the workshop that the criminal appeal system was "fatally flawed". The trial and investigation stages, while not so flawed, were not perfect.

Urging greater vigilance by judges and more intervention during trials, he said they had an important role to play in restoring public confidence in criminal investigations and trials.

Police should also be exposed to judges' thinking on the criminal justice system. "The sooner the shutters fly up and some frank talking starts, the better."

Graham Boal, QC, chief prosecuting counsel at the Old Bailey and prosecutor in the final Birmingham Six appeal, called for modification of the right to silence to end the "ambush defence" — one produced for the first time at trial.

Defence lawyers should be required to outline the issues in the trial at a pre-trial hearing and state which witnesses they would contend were lying or mistaken, he said.



Resting his case... Sir Thomas Bingham, the next Master of the Rolls. "Surely it is better to get our dirty linen laundered at home rather than at Strasbourg,"

PHOTOGRAPH: ALAN REEVILL

Bingham calls for bill of rights

THE man who takes over this week as England's top civil judge yesterday called for a bill of rights. Sir Thomas Bingham, who succeeds Lord Donaldson on Thursday as Master of the Rolls, said: "There is nothing more fundamental at the heart of any legal system, I suggest, than protection of human rights."

Lord Justice Bingham, regarded as a liberal, is the first senior judge to urge the adoption of a bill of rights in a public debate.

Britain has ratified the European Convention on Human Rights but has not adopted it into domestic law. Therefore cases alleging breaches of rights, such as freedom of speech guaranteed by the convention, have to go to the European Court of Human Rights, in Strasbourg.

The House of Lords has ruled that the convention can be taken into account in the British courts only where the law is ambiguous.

Speaking in a bill of rights debate chaired by Sir Robin Day at the Bar conference in London, Sir Thomas said the importance of human rights in Britain was greater than ever.

"Of course this country has never been the homogeneous state that the National Front would have us believe. There has always been a great mix of race, religion and so on, but never to the extent that there is today." He said different races, religions and cultures craved recognition and there were real problems concerning people's happiness and fulfilment.

Britain was a signatory to the European convention, had ratified it and was largely responsible for its drafting. Yet the British courts were unable, save in a

marginal way, to pay any attention to it, and judges were "professionally ignorant" of it.

The present situation had undesirable results. It weakened public confidence in the courts as a place to which they could go to get their rights protected. A common belief of everyone who lost in court was "I shall have to go off to Strasbourg to get my rights".

It meant that findings against the Government were made in an international tribunal rather than our own courts. "Surely it is better to get our dirty linen laundered at home rather than in the court at Strasbourg," Sir Thomas said.

He criticised the "delay, expense and general hassle" involved in going to Strasbourg, citing a current case of a boy whose complaint about physical punishment when aged seven had taken seven years to reach the European court.

He said it was a case "with county court written all over it". Whether the boy was right or wrong, "nobody in their right mind would suggest that it requires a court of 18 judges, seven years' delay and, I've no doubt, a great deal of expense."

"I think that is a crazy way to resolve whether the boy had a complaint under the convention."

The motion — "This house supports the introduction of a judicially-enforceable bill of rights" — was carried by a small majority. It was supported by Michael Zander, professor of law at the London School of Economics, Dr Conor Gearty, senior lecturer in law at King's College, London, and Philip Norton, professor of government at Hull University, opposed it.

CUARDIAN
28.9.92

DPP to get Yard corruption report



Scotland Yard's long-awaited report into drug-related corruption at Stoke Newington police station will be presented to the Director of Public

Prosecutions within a fortnight.

The report, into sensational allegations that police officers at the north London nick have been selling drugs and planting suspects, could lead to a number of officers facing serious criminal charges.

It stems from Operation Jackpot, the Yard's internal inquiry into what one Assistant Commissioner has called 'the most serious case of corruption in the Met for a decade'. Headed by Detective Superintendent Ian Russell of the Yard's Complaints Investigation Branch, Jackpot has been collecting evidence into the

claims since April 1991.

Several dozen current or former Stoke Newington officers have been questioned, some under caution. Russell has also interviewed many people who allegedly either sold drugs for bent police or claim they were 'fitted up' by having drugs, usually crack, planted on them.

Jackpot led to eight officers being moved away from Stoke Newington station in January amidst allegations of drug dealing, planting of suspects, bribery and theft. Three have since been suspended from duty for allegedly committing perjury.

The response of Barbara Mills, the DPP, to Det Supt Russell's report will be seen as a test of the thoroughness of the new regime she has established since being brought in to restore confidence in the Crown Prosecution Service in April.

The report will also be sent to the Po-

lice Complaints Authority, which has been supervising Operation Jackpot, and Sir Peter Imbert, the Met Commissioner.

Scotland Yard refused to comment on the freeing from prison last week of Ida Oderinde, the convicted drug dealer whose detailed claims about corruption at Stoke Newington station led Russell to widen his inquiry. She insists she was 'fitted up' by two of the three suspended officers, and has also been granted leave to appeal.

Oderinde told *Time Out*: 'I'm really happy to be free, but it's appalling to have had me in there for over a year for a crime I never committed. The year in prison has been hell. I've suffered both physically and psychologically. Really, I'm just trying now to get my life back together, especially getting to know my three children.'

The week before, Dennis Tulloch, an

other alleged 'victim' of drug planting was also freed on bail.

Meanwhile, Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Superintendent Roy Clark, has claimed that 'because of the scurrilous publicity given to the police investigation in some parts of the media, drug dealers are coming from far and wide' to Stoke Newington. 'Cocky' dealers believe police will be too cautious to arrest them, he said.

In last weekend's *Independent on Sunday*, Duncan Campbell, the renowned investigative journalist, added to the Stoke Newington police corruption saga. Campbell claimed he had been wrongly arrested and held in a cell overnight by officers from the station because they mistook him for his namesake, the *Guardian's* crime correspondent, who has written a series of articles about the scandal. *Dennis Campbell*

TIME OUT

30.9.92

N

STOKE NEWINGTON SCALLYWAG

In the last edition of Scallywag - with a lengthy investigation we spotlighted in some graphic detail the growing cancer of unrest inside Hackney police - and especially at Stoke Newington police station.

We cast the net back a full 21 years and detailed four deaths in police custody and countless assaults and beatings. We called the station's paddy wagon the most violent vehicle in Britain. We named all 19 policemen against whom serious complaints had been made.

We called for a proper judicial inquiry - on the grounds that many people who had evidence to give or had been abused were reluctant to be interviewed by police investigating police corruption.

We pointed out just how flawed the system was when the police were producing evidence against themselves and submitting it to a wary DPP who could only act on the police submissions.

We named the ringleaders in this sordid affair.

We were the first paper to name all the names and to tell the story from the beginning, putting many different strands into a proper perspective. The paper was a sell-out in North and East London. In one small newsagent the police themselves bought all ten copies on sale.

More than anything else we called for a suspension of all those upcoming trials in which any of the 19 had been the arresting officer - at least until the inquiry was over. Many people were in jail based solely on the evidence of officers who were presently themselves being investigated.

The situation in Hackney has been deteriorating for a long time and had become a time bomb. Some kind of inquiry has to be made. It came eventually after allegations by a certain Pearl Cameron, when she was hauled before the courts for selling large amounts of crack, that the drug had in fact been supplied by the police themselves. This was backed up by evidence from her son and by another witness Ida Oderine, who saw such a transaction and was then arrested for dealing in heroin. She insists this was a plant. Her recent release would indicate that this was actually the case.

The key to the issue was Roy Lowindowski, an ambitious CID officer who was at the very centre of the allegations.

Lowindowski may never have been caught had it not been for a chance raid by H.M. Customs and Excise on a well-known gangsters' gambling club in the borough. Customs work completely autonomously and possess incredible powers of search and entry. They do not need a search warrant, for example, when they want to bust someone.

While they do often work in conjunction with other agencies, they do everything they can to make any operation 'secure'. They had had their eye on the club because they knew it operated at least 100 machines which were VAT declarable, but had not been declared.

Undercover, they had visited the club and had seen the machines in operation. They did not know who he was, but they



WINGTON POLICE DAL UPDATE

had also seen Lowindowski there looking as if he owned the place, so he became a target. Not knowing he was a policeman, when they decided to raid, they liaised with Stoke Newington police station at Superintendent level - as a matter of courtesy.

While raiding on such a venue it was sometimes wise to have police back-up which they soon obtained. But when they raided, all the machines, except the four or five licensed ones, had been moved. Chagrined, Customs retired to fight another day.

This happened again - in exactly the same way with exactly the same consequences. Customs then correctly surmised that someone in the police station had tipped the club off. They had also found out that Lowindowski was living a very rich life. They originally thought he might be the boss man.

They decided to raid without the police 'co-operation' and, low and behold, they found the full 100 or so machines in full operation and among others, they arrested Lowindowski. It was only then they found out he was a copper.

He was subsequently charged with fraud

At about the same time the Pearl Cameron allegations had been made and now they had the same policemen on a criminal charge, they HAD to take the allegation seriously.

Unable to face searching questions, Sergeant Gerald Carroll who had regularly been accused of abuse and was Lowindowski's direct superior, committed suicide.

Out of the 19 we named, eight had been moved to other police stations as soon as the inquiry began. Three of these have now been suspended and could face charges.

The ringleader of these three - after Lowindowski - was Ronald Palumbo, much feared on the streets where he was known as Nathan.

When Palumbo was called to give evidence against one of the people who made statements against him he asked the judge for a stay of caution - Britain's equivalent to the fifth amendment, in which a witness may refuse to give evidence on the grounds it may incriminate him. This is almost unheard of from a police witness. He then answered questions which were directly conflicting with irrefutable evidence which had already been given. The judge gave Palumbo three chances to withdraw his evidence which he did not do. The judge consequently threw the whole case out of the window.

Palumbo had been one of the officers seen 'socially' at Pearl Cameron's shop, along with another officer, Bruce Galbraith, who has also been suspended and who have both been directly accused by Cameron and Oderine of supplying crack and taking up to £2000 a week for it.

The key factor remains Lowindowski and our sources reveal that there has been a wide conspiracy at Stoke Newington to attempt to nobble the custom's case. Simply because, if he is convicted, Lowindowski could take half the station with him.

"If he sings," one police source told us, "a lot of heads will roll."

Had Customs not intervened at a crucial time, the whole thing could have been easily covered up by the police themselves. But like the mounties, customs had got their man and they weren't going to let go.

With Ida Oderine's release, she could become a damning witness in any future trials, and we can only hope that our campaign in recent editions contributed in some small way to justice eventually being done.

No one disputes was dealing in drugs on almost a corner shop scale. Indeed she and her son are on extensive videos taken in Sandringham Road showing that she sold excellent crack from a front window, dispensing it almost like soap flakes.

On the pick-up witnessed by Oderine several thousand pounds changed hands after Palumbo and Galbraith had made a delivery of drugs they had seized elsewhere. On a later unofficial visit the video had been mysteriously switched off. But another policeman had been despatched to visit the premises on an excuse to obtain information on the layout of the building

pending the raid. He was more than surprised to find the two officers there, relaxing in the front room.

The third officer to be suspended is P.C Barry Lyons. This means that the investigating officer, Det. Supt. Ian Russell, has already collected enough evidence to suggest that - on top of Lowindowski - Palumbo, Braithwait and Lyons were also implicated.

STOP PRESS...

At time of going to press, another person who claims he was planted, Everal Brown, has been granted a hearing by the Lord Chief Justice on his application for leave to appeal. Another, Dennis Tulloch, has also been freed. Many more such applications are believed to be innocent. But where is that judicial inquiry?



Senior officers denounce lack of funds and consultation

Act to cut prisoners worries police chiefs

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

SENIOR police officers say that parts of the Criminal Justice Act, which comes into force today, are unworkable and have not been discussed with the police. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, has already expressed misgivings about the act, which aims to cut the number of prisoners.

Brian Johnson, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, told its autumn conference in Preston that he was concerned about how the act will function. Albert Pacey, chairman of its crime committee, said the association had not been consulted and there were not enough resources to make the act work.

"We're a little concerned about the deterrent effect," said Mr Johnson, Chief Constable of Lancashire. "Those sentenced to four years' imprisonment are automatically released after two years."

It was intended that the rele-

vant force would be told when an offender was released on licence, but he was unaware of how or by whom.

One clause suggested that 17-year-olds should not be held in police cells but in local authority secure accommodation, he said. But many areas did not have such accommodation.

The act would place an additional burden on the police, and there was not enough funding to deal with it. He was unaware of any Home Office circulars explaining the machinery of the act to the police.

Mr Pacey, Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, said he had put queries to the Home Office but had no reply.

The police would not be able to provide the details of offenders' previous convictions as required by the act. "It would be an enormous job, impossible," he said.

Joan MacNaughton, of the Home Office criminal policy department, told the conference that the association had been involved in consultations on all aspects of the act. The police would not be required to pro-

vide the additional information to the courts that they had feared.

For the first time a comprehensive sentencing policy had been enacted into law, she said. "We hope it will work smoothly and well but we are keeping an eye on it." There would be a helpline to deal with any problems in interpretation.

● Mr Johnson attacked the BBC film *Black and Blue*, by G. F. Newman, broadcast last Sunday, which portrayed violent, corrupt and racist police. "I was appalled by what I saw and switched off," he said. "The reaction throughout the service is one of disgust."

He also took a swipe at the speech by Kenneth Clarke, the Home Secretary, at the Superintendents Association conference last week in Blackpool.

The subject of incapability "which, when translated, means getting rid of lazy or incompetent police officers" had been introduced by the association, he said, yet no fewer than four home secretaries had raised it at major police conferences.

GUARDIAN

1.10.92



● A policeman's lot is a happy one in the case of Hackney Home Beat bobby Andy Pointon when he is patrolling the area covered by the VADCH Residents' Association.



● A chat over a cuppa as two of the committee's leading officers meet police representatives for an informal get-together. Pictured from left to right are chairperson Carol Hartwell, vice-chair Doreen Barrett, police Neighbourhood Watch officer Nick Johnson and community policeman Andy Pointon.

*If you thought
Neighbourhood
Watch was just
about nosey
neighbours peering
from behind net
curtains, then
think again.*

**RUSS
LAWRENCE**
*met a group of
residents who've got
together with the
police to become
crime-busters in
their own area of
Hackney.
What's more, they
made it work.*

Far more than just tea and sympathy

A GROUP of Hackney residents have halted the exodus away from their neighbourhood by riding the streets of crime and making the area a safer and more pleasant place to live.

Completely removing vandalism, break-ins and muggings from an area with a high crime rate like Hackney is almost unheard of, but a residents' association covering six streets near Victoria Park achieved the remarkable feat when no crimes were reported during August.

And now their methods of tackling crime and improving the fabric and quality of life in their neighbourhood are being held up by Hackney police and others as a model for tenants and residents' groups.

The VADCH Residents' Association represents 1,400 residents in some 500 properties in Victoria Park Road, Annis Road, Danesdale Road, Christie Road, Cassland Road and Harrowgate Road.

It was set up a year ago to re-

duce crime, petty vandalism and noise nuisance, to improve the condition and appearance of the neighbourhood and to keep it tidy and well cared for.

At the same time it set up a police Neighbourhood Watch scheme, which has had great success in reducing crime.

One of the biggest single reasons for that success is the association's unique system of having as many as 24 co-ordinators who are each responsible for 12 households in a street.

Check on problems

The co-ordinators visit their dozen properties twice a month to check on residents and find out whether they have any problems. They can be related to crime, to do with repairs or simply a grievance about noisy neighbours who toot their car horns, or fellow residents who allow their dogs to foul the pavement.

If a problem can be sorted out on the spot, it is - but the complaint is still reported back to the association's monthly meeting where they are discussed. Steps are taken to resolve

them by contacting the appropriate council department or agency responsible.

What action taken is reported back to the householder on the co-ordinator's next visit and the association's committee checks to ensure the matter is dealt with.

"As we became better organised we have learned who the person responsible is for getting things done in the various council departments," says association chairperson Carol Hartwell.

"We have even invited some along to address our monthly meetings, like the boss of the council's cleansing and refuse department, Irfan Malik."

The association has also worked closely with the police in establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

When it was set up last September, the crime figures for that month showed there had been three muggings, five burglaries and 27 vehicle crimes in the six roads over that period. Two months ago not one crime was reported and statistics show crime is down by over 70

per cent. The success is due in part to Neighbourhood Watch officer Nick Johnson and Home Beat bobby Andy Pointon, who have helped make residents more security conscious and aware of crime.

Two Neighbourhood Watch signs have been installed in each street and a special property marking kit has been circulated. Free domestic security surveys have been undertaken by crime prevention officers.

Regular sweeping

The association has also gone about improving the appearance of the area.

It gets the streets swept regularly and ensures hedges and lawns are cut for old folk who cannot manage to do the gardening for themselves.

Each of the six streets also has two large plastic litter bins placed on the pavements, paid for by the Hackney Crime Prevention Panel, of which the association is a member.

It is also negotiating with Hackney Council for hanging flower baskets to be fixed to lamp-posts to brighten up the

area even more. The active participation of the residents has created a community spirit and a return to the old-fashioned good neighbourliness of yesteryear.

Vice-chairperson Doreen Barrett explains: "It's the cup of sugar syndrome where everyone knows their neighbour and can knock next door and borrow something if they run out."

"Many of the residents are elderly and we are setting up an At Risk register with social services' involvement, so co-ordinators know who are vulnerable and in need of special attention."

"We also assist in getting their homes draught-proofed free of charge."

The association is also petitioning the council's highways department to get road humps installed in Christie Road to protect children from speeding traffic that uses it as a rat-run between Cassland Road and Victoria Park Road.

Neighbourhood Watch officer Nick Johnson praises the association and says other tenants and residents' associations

would do well to adopt the scheme.

"They should treat it as a model because it clearly shows what you can do if you use the agencies available properly and seek co-operation from council departments, the police and other agencies," he says.

And Home Beat bobby Andy Pointon echoes those sentiments.

"It's wonderful to see people do something for themselves," he says.

"It shows what can be achieved when people work together and co-operate to improve everybody's quality of life."



● Vice-chair Doreen Barrett carries out her twice monthly check on one of the 12 households she is responsible for as a co-ordinator.

Pics by
**CHRIS
WOOD**

Inefficient police face dismissal

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

INEFFICIENT or lazy police officers could have their pay docked, be demoted or face dismissal under proposals to be presented to the Home Office.

A Home Office working party's plans for dealing with officers as part of an "incapability" procedure will be given to the Police Advisory Board in December.

Yesterday, Peter Ryan, Chief Constable of Norfolk and secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' personnel and training committee, told ACPO's autumn conference in Preston that he believed such officers accounted for no more than a half or 1 per cent of the police. He did not envisage "wholesale dismissals".

Mr Ryan, a member of the working party, along with other police organisations, said that a five-stage procedure would only be implemented after making sure informally that officers knew what was expected of them.

The five-part process would begin with an interview with a senior officer when problems would be outlined. A second interview would deliver "hard words of advice" and sanctions of a demotion, a pay cut or dismissal would be explained.

The next stage would be an incapability hearing chaired by a senior officer at which the officer would be assisted by a friend and a decision would be taken. An appeal to the chief constable of a force could be lodged within two days, and the

officer could finally go to an industrial tribunal.

Mr Ryan said that ACPO had been considering how to deal with such officers since 1987. The main intention was to give help, guidance and support. Dismissals would be a last resort.

Mr Ryan said that it was felt that the existence of the procedure would improve performance all round. "We are trying to take it out of the area of discipline and make it a dialogue."

The Police Federation, which represents rank-and-file officers, opposes the new proposals.

● One in four front-line police officers will be women by the end of the century, the ACPO conference heard yesterday. Women and ethnic minority officers are entering the service at higher levels than ever.

Commander John Grieve, head of training of the Metropolitan Police, told the conference that ways to improve the role of women in the police were being examined, including overcoming the problem of the maternity leave "pit stop."

● John Burrow, the Chief Constable of Essex, takes over as president of ACPO today. A genial man who lists his hobbies as walking, classical music and "lunching", Mr Burrow, aged 57, from Ulverston, Cumbria, is seen as more open than some of his predecessors.

Yesterday he said that the police could win back public confidence and that lessons had been learned on the issues of sexual and racial discrimination.

GUARDIAN

2.10.92

Fair cops at Stoke Newington

DUNCAN CAMPBELL'S article, "A force to be reckoned with" (27 September), was selective in its use of facts. In addition, he has used his privileged position as a journalist to make public his side of a personal dispute.

To present the opposing view of the incident he describes would require as many column inches as those permitted him. Suffice to say other people involved — citizens and police — insist his version of events is wrong.

Having invested so much in securing legal representation, I am surprised Mr Campbell agreed to be bound over, if the circum-

stances were as described by him. His reason — that he was "not confident the magistrates would spot the witnesses had, in effect, been rigged" is not the stuff of which campaigning journalists are made. It certainly does not accord with my view of the man who "braved the Official Secrets Act".

All people brought to this police station are treated fairly and equally. Nobody, not even a Campbell, has any reason to consider otherwise.

Roy Clark
Chief Superintendent
Stoke Newington Police Station
London N16

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

4.10.92

MURKY TALE OF 'CRACK' POLICEMEN

A top level Scotland Yard investigation into allegations of corruption at a London police station threatens to open an embarrassing can of worms. Glen Munroe reports

The dramatic release from prison last month of two people who claim they were fittled up on drugs charges is expected to unleash a wave of similar allegations against officers at a north London police station.

In an unprecedented move, Ida Oderinde and Dennis Tulloch, both from Hackney, north London, were granted bail and permission to apply for leave to appeal against their convictions by the High Court.

Ida Oderinde, a 33-year-old mother of three, was released last week after spending 18 months of a four-year sentence in Holloway Prison for intent to supply heroin.

Five days before her reprieve, Dennis Tulloch, 43, was granted bail in similar circumstances after spending one year of a four-year jail sentence for supplying crack. Both cases hinged on the alleged corruption of police officers from Stoke Newington police station.

Solicitor Gareth Pierce, who is representing Ms Oderinde, said: "It is very unusual for individuals to be given bail to appeal against a custodial sentence. Ninety nine per cent of appeal cases in similar circumstances are successful."

To police watchdog groups, the release of the two testifies to well-known claims that certain officers in Stoke Newington police station have systematically planted drugs on innocent people, many of them Black.

Both Ms Oderinde and Mr Tulloch have always pleaded their innocence. Mr Tulloch claims that crack was planted on him while he was outside a betting shop, and Ms Oderinde has repeatedly said that her only offence was threatening to expose two police officers from Stoke Newington station. She claims to have witnessed the officers supplying her friend, Pearl Cameron, with a bag full of crack in September 1990.

A week later her house was raided and a large quantity of heroin was discovered in a fridge. She readily admitted to using heroin but denied selling it and said that it had been planted in her house.

She said: "I'm really happy to be free. But it's appalling to have been in prison for over a year for a crime I never committed. The year in prison has been hell. I have suffered both physically and psychologically. Now I'm trying to get my life back together, especially getting to know my three children again."

First

A spokesman from Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA), which has supported the two in their campaigns for justice, said: "We hope that they will be the first of many people who are or have been wrongly imprisoned to have their convictions overturned."

The Police Complaints Authority is currently investigating 20 complaints against Stoke Newington police officers and they expect the number of complaints to increase.

"We have had a lot of new complaints over the last few months and expect an increase as more people become aware of the complaints investigation," said a spokesman.

This view is also shared by Rod Novy, a solicitor acting for Mr Tulloch. Commenting on his client's release, he said: "This is tantamount to an admission by the Crown Prosecution Service that my client's conviction was unsafe and unsatisfactory. This case will be used by others to support their appeals."

Allegations of police corruption have been rife since the police raid on Hackney's notorious frontline, Sandringham Road, in January 1991 in which Pearl Cameron was arrested for

supplying crack. She backed the claims previously made by Ms Oderinde that she bought crack from the police and used it to help supply up to 100 people a day.

Ms Cameron, 39, and her son Marlon, 20, were subsequently jailed for five years and two years respectively for conspiracy to supply drugs.

During the court case in July she testified that the main conspirator in her crack dealing was a police officer at Stoke Newington police station, whom she frequently paid £1,000 a week for crack and on one occasion up to £2,000.

Her accusations contributed to a police inquiry, Operation Jackpot, which was launched in April 1991.

The investigation into these allegations of drug dealing has been described by senior officers at Scotland Yard as the most serious for 20 years.

Suspended

Since Operation Jackpot was launched, three officers have been suspended from duty and eight transferred to other stations. However, accusations against officers at the beleaguered police station have continued unabated.

Dennis Bramble of Shadwell, east London, was acquitted in June 1991 for possessing heroin after claiming he had been fittled up by police. The prosecution viewed the police claims as unreliable.

A HCDA spokesman said: "We view such widespread accusations as symbolic of 'systematic police harassment'."

The group is demanding a judicial inquiry into policing in Hackney.

It is also planning to disclose the findings of its own investigations into these claims, which it says shows the same group of police officers' names repeatedly cropping up.

"We demand that the findings of Operation Jackpot are made public as soon as possible and that all those who have given evidence to Operation Jackpot should have their cases referred to the Court Of Appeal immediately."

Detective Superintendent Ian Russell, who is leading Operation Jackpot, told The Voice: "I expect to issue the findings of Operation Jackpot within a month to the Crown Prosecution Service who will decide whether to take action or not."



IDA ODERINDE: Says she witnessed police supplying crack to a dealer.



STOKE NEWINGTON POLICE STATION: Centre of allegations.

VOICE
6.10.92

Police 'victim' may go free



the Lord Chief Justice.

Lord Chief Justice Taylor, the top criminal judge in England and Wales, will hear the application both for bail and leave to appeal by counsel acting for Everal Brown on Tuesday, October 13.

Time Out understands that in an unusual development, the Lord Chief Justice asked to hear the applications because of the potentially disastrous consequences for the criminal justice system of the growing corruption scandal involving police from the north London station. Dozens of people could be freed on appeal or have their convictions for drug dealing quashed retrospectively

The latest 'victim' of alleged drug planting by detectives from the notorious Stoke Newington police drugs squad could be freed next week by

— potentially the biggest British miscarriage of justice ever.

A bail hearing to decide if Brown should be freed was held at the High Court on Monday October 5, before Mr Justice Hobhouse, but adjourned until next Tuesday to enable the Lord Chief Justice to take the case.

Brown's claim at his trial in June 1991 at Snaresbrook Crown Court that he was 'planted' was rejected by the jury, and he was sentenced to six years for possession of crack cocaine with intent to supply.

The main evidence against him came from the two officers who arrested him in October 1990, DC Barry Lyons and PC Ronald Palumbo, who have both been suspended from duty.

Serious doubts surrounding the credibility of the two officers has recently led to the freeing on bail of two other alleged 'victims' of drug planting by Stoke New-

ington officers, Dennis Tulloch and Ida Oderinde.

Lyons and Palumbo arrested Brown and testified that they found seven wraps of crack cocaine in a matchbox on him. Brown has always insisted he was framed.

Brown has twice before been refused leave to appeal, most recently on June 8 this year — just nine days before the suspension of Palumbo and another officer, PC Bruce Galbraith, for alleged perjury.

David Janes, a solicitor acting for Brown, told *Time Out*: 'It's understood that the Lord Chief Justice will consider the application for bail and at the same time decide whether there are sufficient grounds to reinstate Brown's leave to appeal against his conviction on the grounds of fresh evidence concerning these particular officers.'

Denis Campbell

TIME OUT

7.10.92

Lukewarm welcome for bad apples

CAMPAIGNERS against criminal injustice have given a lukewarm welcome to the announcement by Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke of new powers to allow chief constables to deal with "poor performers" in the force.

Announcing the powers, Mr Clarke said: "There is still a quite understandable reluctance to deal with one's colleague's shortcomings using procedures which at the end of the day mean that they lose their jobs. But this nettle has to

be grasped."

Campaigners said Mr Clarke was playing on the "bad apples" argument that corruption in the police could be traced to individuals but owed nothing to widespread problems in police work.

Tony Price, chair of the Hackney Community Defence Association, said the new powers would at best make it easier for a police officer to complain about a colleague, but it barely nodded towards greater accountability to the public

outside the force.

He said: "The bottom line is that police crime has to be seen as such - not as a 'shortcoming'. If some police officers are drug dealers they must be treated as drug dealers."

A Home Office spokesman denied that Mr Clarke's announcement bore any direct relation to Operation Jackpot, an internal police inquiry into allegations of drug dealing and corruption at Stoke Newington police station, London.

The inquiry, whose findings

are likely to remain confidential, has recently returned to media attention as drug cases have collapsed because judges ruled out evidence from officers under investigation.

● Ida Oderinge, an inmate at Holloway prison, London, has given an interview protesting her innocence and asking why she is still behind bars. Ms Oderinge was one of the first to allege drug planting and dealing at Stoke Newington police station.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

8.10.92

POLICE 5

THE crack-dealing protection scandal at north London's Stoke Newington "supernick" rumbles on, acquiring West Midlands serious crime squad-style proportions as Knacker's victims are gradually released on bail pending appeal.

Knacker admits that eight plods have been transferred to other stations and three suspended as a result of the investigation into his own dodgy dealings. But Hackney Community Defence Association, a local watchdog, points out that at least 14 former members of Stoke Newington drugs squad no longer serve at the station, and it has speculated that the whole squad may have been quietly disbanded some time before Scotland Yard began its inquiry.

The Eye recently carried news of the release of Dennis Tulloch, one of those fitted up, and within a week Nigerian mother-of-two Ida Oderinde, was also freed. She now awaits her appeal at home. Serving a long sentence for supposedly dealing crack cocaine, she was the source of the detailed allegations that originally sparked Knacker's inquiry, ludicrously called Operation Jackpot.

Jackflop sources, who believe Ida to be innocent, say she was planted with drugs because she knew too much about bent local coppers. They also say that the leader of the Crackpot inquiry, Supt Ian "Jack" Russell, will present his report to the DPP within weeks. Russell and his six-strong team have taken hundreds of statements and catalogued allegations of corruption against more than a dozen plods from the station.

Deciding what to do with the report is going to be an enormous headache for the CPS, which has

already had to abandon a number of trials because the integrity of police prosecution witnesses was in doubt. Meanwhile Knacker is bracing himself for another unwelcome splurge of media attention later this month when the trial of the mysterious Officer X — the copper at the heart of the scandal — begins.

PRIVATE EYE
9.10.92

person may have a knife or be seriously mentally disturbed. Those who returned Conservative Members of Parliament and elected a Conservative Government did so primarily because Conservatives believe in security and the rule of law. The rights of my constituents to wander central London during the pre-Christmas shopping season are being gravely diminished by the present state of affairs. I should be grateful for a specific reply from my hon. Friend the Minister on this issue. I warn him that there is a silent accumulation of disgust at the inhumane situation that has been tolerated and a growing outrage that the rule of law has been suspended and dispensed with in a way that seems, on the face of it, unconstitutional.

1.42 pm

Ms. Diane Abbott (Hackney, North and Stoke Newington): I wish to describe two serious problems affecting my constituency—street prostitution and the scourge of drugs.

It is impossible for the majority of hon. Members whose constituencies may not contain the problem of street prostitution to appreciate the concern and outrage felt by those living in residential districts suffering from it. The resulting difficulties include the harassment of women walking along, who are taken to be prostitutes. There are a number of small schools in Stamford hill, an area where the problem of street prostitution exists, and prostitutes ply their trade night and day. Women bring their children to school and find that there are prostitutes outside.

At night, there is noise nuisance when sometimes as many as half a dozen prostitutes congregate at street corners, squabbling and disturbing residents. In the Stamford hill district there are a number of blocks of flats, some of which are sheltered accommodation for the elderly. Elderly people sometimes wake up in the morning and emerge from their doorways to find the corridors littered with used condoms and broken syringes—signs of the prostitutes' activities. We experience all the problems of crime related to the prostitutes, such as drugs and violence.

At any given time only a handful of hon. Members suffer from that problem in their constituencies and, as a consequence, the House does not take the matter seriously enough. The residents in Stamford hill and those in the northern part of my constituency, around the Seven Sisters road and Amhurst park, have had enough of the problem. It causes them misery, is an environmental nuisance, and it gives rise to crime and related activities. My constituents want more resources devoted to the police, and by the police, to taking prostitution off the streets, and they urge a serious review of the law. More could be done to strengthen the law not necessarily on prostitution but kerb crawling. It takes two to create a nuisance, and the men who kerb crawl all night are just as much to blame as the prostitutes. People throughout the country share that concern. It is hardly fair that prostitutes can be charged and imprisoned while their male customers, who are just as culpable, get off scot free. I am sure that Members in all parts of the House take that matter seriously.

Surprise has been expressed at the scale of the drugs problem in inner London, but those of us born and brought up there have seen that transformation, with the introduction of hard drugs on to inner city streets—particularly crack cocaine. Drug abuse is itself an illegal activity, but it also creates violence. Many of the shootings

and killings which occur in London are directly connected with the drugs trade, and crimes are committed by addicts trying to get money to pay for their daily fix. That is the motive behind many of the mindless and vicious assaults that we read about in the London newspapers.

Drug abuse is not, unfortunately, a crime that is committed behind closed doors. Housing estates are ruined when flats are taken over and used as retail outlets for drugs. Even in Clissold park, in which I walk my baby most days when I am not in the House, the sandpit cannot be used because it is full of crushed syringes. The drug menace is a sword at the heart of the inner city. Those of us familiar with the changing nature of that threat want the Metropolitan police to devise a serious strategy against drugs. In some parts of London, the belief is that their strategy is one of containment—but for the citizens of Hackney, that is not enough. We want the drug menace taken off our streets altogether.

The specific issue that I want to raise concerns serious allegations made against officers at Stoke Newington police station, which has developed an unfortunate reputation over the years. Earlier this year, thousands of pounds had to be paid to people who had been falsely arrested, harassed, or been subjected to violence by Stoke Newington police. I refer to a particular allegation—now the subject of an internal inquiry—that over the years, police at Stoke Newington netted tens of thousands of pounds by running their own drug dealers, planted drugs on people who were not drug dealers, solicited bribes, offered drugs to people if they would testify, and assaulted and racially abused suspects, almost all of them black.

Conservative Members, and perhaps even some of my own colleagues, may comment, "People would say that, wouldn't they?" However, the current major investigation into alleged corruption at Stoke Newington was triggered not by the fantasies of drug dealers or the complaints of local people, but in another way. Time and again when Customs and Excise officials planned VAT raids in Stoke Newington jointly with the local police, they arrived only to find that the suspects had gone. Customs and Excise began to believe that Stoke Newington police were on the take, as when they planned raids without involving the police, the suspects would be there when they arrived. As a result of the notion that so long as they did not involve the police they would hit the jackpot, the investigation into corruption at Stoke Newington was dubbed "operation jackpot". These may sound like the kind of allegations that suspected drug dealers would be bound to make, but the investigation arose not because of complaints from my constituents but because Customs and Excise believed that the police must be "on the take".

In April 1991, the Russell inquiry into operation jackpot began. Since then, PC Roy Lewendowski, a policeman at Stoke Newington, has been arrested and charged with theft and VAT fraud. Another Stoke Newington policeman, PC Palumbo, was heavily censured by Judge Pitman in the case of *Crown v. Noel*. Eight police officers have been transferred from Stoke Newington police station. Another Stoke Newington policeman, Sergeant Gerry Carroll, shot himself in a cell at Barkingside police station. PCs Palumbo and Galbraith have been suspended from operational duties. In a case involving Stoke Newington police—the case of Dennis Bramble—the prosecution offered no evidence because of "the unreliability of police evidence".

In July this year, Pearl Cameron, a Hackney resident, was sentenced to five years imprisonment in relation to drug dealing, but the judge commented:

"I sentence you on the basis that your dealing stemmed from the advances of a corrupt police officer."

The police officer involved is at Stoke Newington police station. Since the inquiry began, 27 officers at Stoke Newington police station have been served with regulation 7 notices in respect of allegations that they have been involved in drug trafficking.

The inquiry is not based simply on rumour, or on allegations made by suspect sources. This is one of the most serious allegations of corruption involving the Metropolitan police for many years. Senior officers within the Metropolitan police have said that the level of corruption suggested by the inquiry rivals that discovered in the West Midlands police force.

I remind the Home Secretary that the Russell inquiry has been in progress for nearly two years. It is a matter of urgency for the inquiry to report, so that the shadow hanging over Stoke Newington police station can be dispelled. Until it reports, no one will know the truth of the allegations, and the trust and co-operation that Stoke Newington ought to receive from the community will remain in jeopardy. We were promised that the inquiry would report in the autumn. Where is the report? These are grave allegations, and it is not fair either to the Stoke Newington community or to honest policemen to delay the process in this way.

According to the allegations, there appears to have been a ring of corrupt policemen at Stoke Newington police station. A number of people have been convicted and have served sentences on the basis of evidence from officers at Stoke Newington who are now being investigated by the police. What steps are being taken to establish how many cases may be involved? What steps are being taken to inform the solicitors of the people concerned? A number of cases are currently going through the courts on the basis of evidence from Stoke Newington officers who are now under investigation. What steps are being taken to ascertain how many such cases there are?

As I have said, these are grave allegations, and I do not repeat them in the House lightly. I put it to the Minister, however, that if we are to succeed in a crusade against drugs on the streets of London, the police must have the co-operation of the community. Such allegations, constantly repeated, cannot help that co-operation. The Russell report is long overdue. We in Stoke Newington—and everyone who trusts in the Metropolitan police—must urge the Minister to encourage the Metropolitan police to produce that report speedily.

It has been a common ploy of Conservative politicians over the years to accuse Labour Members of Parliament and Labour councillors of being soft on crime. It is an easy charge to make and it is often made, but there is no way in which any genuine representative of the people of inner London could be soft on crime. If there is any group of people who suffer from crime, be it street violence, crimes against property or the terrible menace of drugs, it is our constituents. During the five years that I have been a Member of Parliament one of the issues that has caused most concern to my constituents has been the effects of crime, and their perception in some cases either that police strategy is not appropriate or that it is difficult to understand.

[Ms. Diane Abbott]

No one suffers more from crime than the people the Opposition Members seek to represent. If we raise allegations of malpractice and complaints about the incidence of corruption, it is only in the long run to increase the chance of improving confidence in the police and co-operation with the police. That will be the basis for a successful war against crime in the Metropolitan police area.

Policing faces huge changes

THE borough's police watchdog group will get clued up later this month on radical new plans for the way Hackney will be policed in the future.

The Police Community Consultative Group is devoting October's meeting to a special presentation on sector policing.

Biggest change

Its introduction next year will mark the biggest change in the style of policing for over 100 years.

Areas of Hackney will, in effect, become mini-constabularies, with their own police force.

The two divisions which currently cover the borough will be divided up into smaller sectors, each with its own inspector and a team of officers

by **RUSS LAWRENCE**

who will be responsible for round-the-clock policing of their patch.

The Metropolitan Police wants to replace the outdated shift system it operates, which it says is wasteful of manpower.

Currently, teams of police work eight-hour shifts covering the whole division, with one "relief" handing over to another at the end of their stint.

It means up to a quarter of officers can be on duty at times like the early morning, when fewer officers are needed. The rigid shift pattern also means police can't react to demands when large numbers are desperately needed at short notice.

Police in both of Hackney's police divisions are still busy drawing up their sector boundaries with the aim of ensuring that they have sufficient officers to cover a sector 24 hours a day.

They also will have to provide emergency cover for other sectors, while taking into account officers' leave, sickness, court appearances and training.

Views and opinions

"The special presentation is part of the consultative process and will inform our members and provide the police with our views and opinions," said consultative group chair, Betty Blomfield.

The meeting will take place at Hackney Town Hall on Thursday, October 22, at 7.30pm and is open to the public.

Helping with inquiries



● Chief Supt Bernard Taffs, council leader John McCafferty, Chief Supt Roy Clark and Richard Cohen of Hackney Taskforce at the launch of the study.

HACKNEY businessmen are to be quizzed by police as part of a Hackney Council-backed crime prevention scheme.

The borough's two top cops, Chief Supt Bernard Taffs from Hackney police station and Chief Supt Roy Clark from Stoke Newington police station joined Hackney Council leader, Cllr John McCafferty, in the Narrowway shopping precinct this week to launch the Business Crime Prevention Study.

The special project aims to reduce break-ins and criminal damage to shop and factory premises by getting the business community to improve security and make them more aware of

crime prevention.

Over 4,000 businesses in the borough are to receive the police questionnaires over the next three months.

Funding for the project is being made available by Hackney Task Force, a government agency set up to improve and regenerate deprived inner-city areas.

It will be co-ordinated by the council's own police unit, which will use the feedback and information gained from local businesses to produce a special crime report and advice booklet on crime prevention which will then be distributed around all Hackney businesses.

Policeman on tax evasion charge

A SUSPENDED detective constable, formerly attached to Stoke Newington police station, was among 15 men remanded by City of London Magistrates' Court following the seizure of 300 poker gaming machines in London and the Home Counties.

Customs and Excise officers assisted police in

Operation Janus and arrested the 15 who are all charged with evading VAT between November 19, 1988, and November 17, 1991. Among those before the court was suspended policeman Roy Lewandowski, 31, of Masfield Road, Romford.

All the defendants face the identical charge, that at

Criterion Mews, Upper Holloway, each conducted himself in such a way that his conduct must have involved the commission of one or more offences under the VAT Act, 1983.

All were remanded on bail until Monday, October 19, for a five-week, old-style committal hearing.

Bribery and drug dealing allegations are investigated

Police corruption probe concluded

THE long-awaited report of the Scotland Yard investigation into allegations of bribery and drug dealing by eight Stoke Newington policemen, will be presented to the Director of Public Prosecutions within the next seven days.

Operation Jackpot, the 18-month long inquiry into what senior Scotland Yard officers say are the most serious allegations to have faced the Met in the last 20 years, has resulted in the officers being transferred to other stations.

Two of the officers, Det Con Ronald Palumbo and Pc Bruce

Galbraith, were later suspended from duty over claims that they attempted to pervert the course of justice.

Evidence given by them which led to the conviction of Ide Oderinde and Denis Tulloch, both from Stoke Newington, on drug-dealing charges, has been brought into doubt since the defendants were freed on bail pending an appeal.

Using the protection of parliamentary privilege, Hackney MP Brian Sedgemore accused senior policemen of acting like Mafia Godfathers, while a core of corrupt officers pocketed thousands

from organised crime.

He also pointed an accusing finger at Sgt Gerrard Carroll, a former custody sergeant at Stoke Newington, who died after shooting himself in the head.

Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clark, has always defended his officers and says most of the evidence against them has been provided by convicted criminals. He accused Mr Sedgemore of trying to smear the name of a man who could not defend himself.

And he says the investigation and subsequent shadow the publicity has caused in the national

press and on TV has hampered working officers in their fight against drug dealers.

In last week's Gazette he revealed that drug dealers were coming to Stoke Newington from other areas and had become cocky, believing officers will think twice about arresting them.

He said one dealer, who made the original allegations against police, had returned to drug dealing and had been arrested in front of witnesses while in possession of two ounces of drugs.

The investigation is being led by Det Supt Ian Russell, who will also be sending his report to Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions and to the Police Complaints Authority.

HC 9.10.92



Excessive force?

The report into alleged drug dealing by Stoke Newington police will be passed to the DPP this week. Nine months after *Time Out* exposed the scandal, Denis Campbell investigates how the war against drugs went wrong.



Five o'clock last Wednesday afternoon outside the Jerk Chicken takeaway on Sandringham Road, Hackney, and it was business as usual for a couple of the area's dozens of drug dealers. Bulky black guys, in leather jackets and trainers, carrying mobile phones, they slowly paced around on the pavement, patiently waiting for customers. Mums with shopping walked by without batting an eyelid. Kids in school uniform took no notice either. A police Mini Metro passed with two uniformed officers inside, but didn't stop.

Sandringham Road, E8, is one of London's most notorious and most visible drug dealing centres. On 'The Front Line', trading in drugs goes on around the clock: some cannabis, but mainly 'crack', the highly addictive cocaine derivative. With crack

addicts smoking between £50 and £200 a day of the stuff, it's little wonder the police blame 90 per cent of local street crime on addicts desperate for cash to buy another 'rock'.

The police — some stationed just 15 yards away in a 24-hour Police Shop — know the score, but can do little about such blatant defiance of the law. When the Shop opened in April, the *Hackney Gazette* said it was 'designed to provide a round-the-clock police presence to deter drug addicts and dealers from using Sandringham Road and to stamp out its reputation as a haven for drug abuse.'

It deterred dealers for a few weeks, but soon they were back. Local people say that if anything, the existence of the Police Shop has spread the problem; overt drug dealing is now just as rife in nearby Shacklewell Lane too.

Sandringham Road, directly op

posite Dalston's Rio cinema, has been a major centre of drug dealing for as long as anyone can remember. It used to be mainly cannabis; these days there is so much crack on the streets that E8 has earned the dubious distinction of being Britain's unofficial crack capital, where the 'Yardies', Jamaican drug gangs who arrived in the area in the mid-1980s, rule the roost.

Responsibility for policing this difficult, deprived, high-crime, ethnically diverse area has always rested with the police at Stoke Newington. Their base used to be a small police station a few hundred yards north of Sandringham Road and Shacklewell Lane, up tatty Kingsland High Street and into Stoke Newington Road, towards the part of N16 which has become yuppified in recent years. Wisely, it had floodlights and double glazing, just in case of trouble — which there sometimes was

In 1987, overcrowding led to the demolition of the old station. Three years later, the current Stoke Newington 'supernick' — the biggest police station in London, and reputedly the most modern and best-equipped in Britain — opened on the same site. The new nick was meant to symbolise a fresh start in the troubled history of police-community relations. This time its extensive use of glass had another purpose: the police wanted the public to be able to look in and see that they had nothing to hide.

Since then, though, Stoke Newington police, especially the busy drugs squad, have been at the centre of a massive scandal, which Scotland Yard accepts amounts to 'the worst case of corruption in the Met for a decade' (see box right).

Nine months after *Time Out* began making inquiries, there now seems little doubt that a significant number of officers, currently or formerly based at Stoke Newington, are as bent as a nine-bob note. Our ongoing investigation shows that at least a dozen officers have broken the law on numerous occasions: some by selling drugs, but most by fitting up suspects and then lying to cover their tracks.

Detective Superintendent Ian Russell, the officer heading Operation Jackpot, Scotland Yard's internal inquiry, told *Time Out* this week he is busy 'putting the final touches' to his report. In both its apparent



One dealer told *Time Out*: 'It was fairly common knowledge that some of the Stoke Newington drugs squad were actually supplying drugs — about five or six officers at most.'

Crucially, this account tallies with that given by a well-placed police source last week — that a core of five CID officers, including one who has since risen to the rank of Inspector, were pocketing thousands of pounds by operating as 'a firm within a firm' — supplying drugs, taking bribes to 'fix things', stealing dealers' illegal earnings and operating extortion rackets.

The threat of legal action, and a pending court case involving one of the five, prevents us naming this quintet. However, they are well-known to us, to many of the lawyers who are investigating the scandal and, of course, to Det Supt Russell.

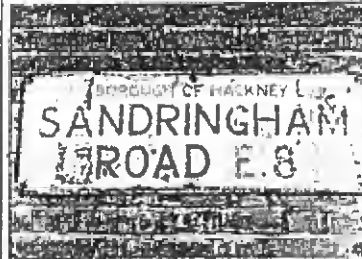
Extensive inquiries by *Time Out* have established that, in addition, at least seven other officers regularly planted drugs on suspects to gain convictions and occasionally also took advantage of the money-making 'opportunities' thrown up by Hackney's booming drugs trade.

In July, Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke told London MPs that 27 Stoke Newington officers had been put on notice that serious allegations had been made against them.

As far as all the corrupt officers were concerned — the five involved in drug dealing and this other seven — the beauty of their misdemea-

nours was that they were unlikely ever to be uncovered. Complaints from drug dealers, fearful of getting busted, were pretty unlikely. And even if they did complain, who would believe those with long criminal records?

Take the case of 'Clive', a dealer. Arrested by two of the officers, he was relieved of £1,000 in cash. Don't worry, they said, we'll make sure you get bail. Clive, anxious to



Above: Sandringham Road, the centre of the local drugs trade. Main pic and below: Drug dealers and graffiti on Shacklewell Lane.

avoid a spell in prison, agreed. But when the officers reneged on their promise, Clive, furious at having been double-crossed, could scarcely file a complaint alleging theft. How, after all, could an 'unemployed' man explain having £1,000 in cash on him?

The main reason the scandal has come to light is the unusually high number of alleged drug dealers in Hackney, usually Jamaican-born, who have been acquitted after claiming they were planted. 'Fit-up' is a common defence by villains, but the astonishing number of cases where Stoke Newington police have apparently been disbelieved by juries raised suspicions — among lawyers, in the media and at Scotland Yard.

One ex-dealer says it is little surprise that, since crack first arrived in the mid-1980s, the police in Hackney have often felt forced to break the rules in order to gain convictions; catching dealers by legitimate means, he explains, is not easy.

'It's an impossible task for the police, even though the dealing is so public. Dealers keep about six "stones" (small £20 pieces of crack cocaine wrapped in foil) in their mouth; if they're busted, they just swallow them and, bang, the police have got no hard evidence to arrest them. The rest of their gear is secreted about Sandringham Road, sometimes within yards of the Po-

lice Shop, but everyone knows not to touch it or they'll be in trouble.'

The increasing number of girls and young women acting as street dealers is also causing the police problems: any search of a female suspect has to be carried out by that too-rare creature in the drugs squad, a woman officer. Plus, getting witnesses to testify against criminals who happily shoot or knife opponents is another obvious deterrent. Finally, discreet observation by police to gather evidence is hampered by the fact that most of the drugs squad officers are well-known to the dealers.

'The dealers run rings round the police,' says one local man.

The ex-dealer says: 'Drugs squad officers quickly discovered that methods of arrest they had learned at training school were no use. I suspect their inability to make arrests led their superiors to regard them as incompetent, so they had to start getting results. They eventually started to break the rules, and that's the cause of so much of the bother today.'

Our well-placed police source believes the 'scams and rackets' now being uncovered began in the three years — 1987-90 — when Stoke Newington police were all moved to nearby Dalston station while the 'supernick' was built. 'You had 400 officers in a small station, no supervision and a lot of young, inexperienced officers being put straight away into a very difficult area. Some of these young boys are very susceptible: they saw how other people made a bit of money and said, "I want some of that." Most officers usually don't go along with it, but a small number of greedy, inexperienced officers did.'

The 'don't-bother-me-with-that' attitude of senior officers towards suspicions about the activities of certain officers didn't help either, he says.

He is now concerned that the corruption scandal 'has destroyed the confidence of all those officers at Stoke Newington who are working honestly, who think "what's the point?"'

'The CID have given up, they've thrown in the towel. They're gutted because everyone's tarring them with the same brush, because a few have spoiled things for the majority.'

Just because you've got a few bent police officers doesn't mean they're all bent. ■

THE STORY SO FAR

The Stoke Newington police scandal involves allegations that some officers have:

- made thousands of pounds by supplying drugs to local dealers
- 'fitted up' dozens of suspects by planting drugs on them
- solicited and accepted bribes in return for favourable treatment of certain dealers
- stolen cash from drug dealers
- lined their pockets by extorting the area's numerous pubs, clubs and shebeens through protection-from-prosecution rackets

As one local police officer cynically puts it: 'If I wanted to make money round here, I could think of a scam for every day of the week.'

Time Out has reported regularly on the growing scandal since eight officers were transferred out of the area in late January, 'to maintain confidence in the station', because of the allegations. Remarkably, Scotland Yard acted even though the sensational claims came from convicted drug dealers and well-known villains. Since January, three of the eight have been suspended.

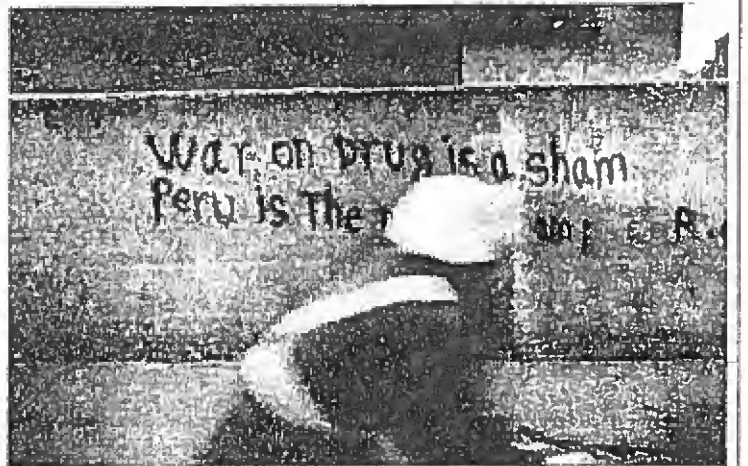
Faced with collapsing morale among his officers, Chief Superintendent Roy Clark, the officer in charge at Stoke Newington, has maintained that the eight transferred detectives should be presumed innocent pending the outcome of Operation Jackpot, the Yard's 18-month-long internal inquiry into the affair. None, he stresses, may ever be proved to have acted improperly. Clark has repeatedly stressed the dishonesty of those making the allegations.

thoroughness and the seriousness of the allegations it covers, it is expected to show that the Stoke Newington police and drugs scandal is potentially as big a disaster for British policing as the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four and West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad fiascos.

Within days, the Jackpot findings will land on the desk of Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, and Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, creating a massive headache for both. The action — or lack of it — which follows will provide a crucial indication of the willingness of the criminal justice system in general, and the police in particular, to own up to major failures and then put them right.

How did it come to this? For some officers, the fitting-up of suspects stemmed from frustration at their inability to stem the tide of drug-dealing in the area. Others had less noble motives, those shared by the drug dealers themselves — sheer profit.

The authorities have already admitted that one detective, identified only as Officer X, was making £1,000-£2,000 a week by supplying crack to Pearl Cameron who, with up to 125 customers a day, was probably the busiest dealer on 'The Line' until she was busted in January last year. If one officer was at it, local people reason, there must have been others too.



Police urged to hit local drug markets

Martin Linton

POLICE have given up hope of controlling drug markets in many areas because of concern at being seen as heavy-handed and alienating the community, a senior police officer claimed yesterday.

Instead of trying to catch an often fictitious "Mr Big" they should concentrate more efforts on arresting drug dealers in the market place and driving away users, David Phillips, the deputy chief constable of Devon and Cornwall told the International Police Conference at London's Barbican Centre.

The police saw themselves as "surviving in a tough environment without any hope of changing the pattern of events," he told the conference.

The tactics of the drug dealers were to use ethnic propaganda, complaints against the police and provocation of police reaction to "create enough problems for police commanders that they will be reticent about a constant enforcement policy," Mr Phillips said.

It was because a constant enforcement policy could be so disastrous for the profits of the drugs market that there was so much antagonism towards the police, he said.

"A policing style based on community enthusiasm and

bland patrolling, whatever else it will do, will do nothing to damage the criminal fabric of the market."

Mr Phillips said the drugs market was divided into territories, each dominated by a small group consisting of look-outs, street dealers, suppliers based in a betting shop or a pub and runners who carried money and drugs between the suppliers and the holding centre.

Typically it would be in an inner-city area with a high level of unemployment, persistent street prostitution, illegal drinking clubs or shebeens and a concentration of vicious street robberies, mainly on punters and often unreported.

The main misconception of the police was the presumed distinction between users and dealers. Users were also dealers, prostitutes were also addicts, street robbers were also drug dealers and shebeens were also drug markets.

Many officers believed that if only "Mr Big" could be brought to book, the haemorrhage of narcotics would be staunch, but the evidence was that the removal of key suppliers did not make any long-term difference to the level of supplies.

A far more effective approach would be to search out and destroy the market places where drugs are bought and sold, arresting the dealers and driving away the punters, he said.

GUARDIAN

15.10.92

Service with a smile



● Chief Supt Bernard Taffs and (right) John Hyde – special thanks.

HACKNEY Council and the police get their fair share of criticism from the public, but often the good service they provide goes unnoticed.

So 1,200 Victoria Park residents decided to acknowledge the help they have received in the past year by giving police and council workers a pat on the back.

The VADCH (Victoria Park-Annis-Danesdale-Christie-Cassland-Harrowgate Roads) Residents' Association presented special scrolls to Hackney's top cop, Chief Supt Bernard Taffs, and to council boss John Hyde, head of the borough's directorate of technical services, at their annual meeting last week.

They also made a special presentation to their home beat bobby, Pc Andy Pointon, who is leaving the area after 10 years. They gave him a luxury pen and a signed letter of thanks.



● Pc Andy Pointon – farewell presentation.

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18.10.92

Corrupt cops 'still active'



DRUG DEALING and fitting-up suspects by some police officers is still rife in scandal-hit Stoke Newington, despite moves by Scotland

Yard to stamp out corrupt practices, a report out this week claims.

The pamphlet, *Fighting The Lawmen*, is the result of a nine-month investigation into the police and drugs scandal by the Hackney Community Defence Association, HCDA, a local police watchdog group, has played a key role in exposing the scandal since eight officers were moved out of Stoke Newington at the end of January.

It has collected evidence showing that a core of 12-15 police officers have been involved in organised crime in the area since 1989, including supplying drugs and planting them on suspects.

HCDA spokesman Graham Smith said: 'We have evidence that despite Operation Jackpot [Scotland Yard's internal inquiry into the scandal] it's still going on today. This is not a question of a few police criminals; it's organised crime - a crime ring organised by police officers. Different generations of police officers have been involved.'

Graham Smith repeated HCDA's fear that Operation Jackpot will result in a cover-up. The report claims: 'Irrespective of how thorough and well-intentioned Det Supt Russell's inquiry might be, the attitudes of Stoke Newington officers, the police establishment, the Director of Public Prosecutions office, the Crown Prosecution Service and the judiciary are likely to ensure that police officers are not convicted of criminal offences.'

The pamphlet includes pieces written by three alleged victims of planting and the girlfriend of a fourth.

Meanwhile, Everald Brown, the alleged drug dealer whose claim that he was fitted up was highlighted in *Time Out* two weeks ago, was freed on bail and granted leave to appeal following a hearing before the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Taylor, last week.

* *Fighting The Lawmen* is available for £2 (incl. P&P) from HCDA, 10A Bradbury Street, N16 7JN.

TIME OUT

21.10.92

Condon: fast track from the Chunnel

PAUL Condon, who takes over the hottest policing job on mainland Britain at the age of 45, is part of the new breed of articulate, fast-track, graduate officers who emerged in the Metropolitan Police in the 1970s.

He joined the force in 1967 and won accelerated promotion through the ranks. After working at the Bethnal Green station in east London he won a scholarship to St Peter's College, Oxford, where he graduated in law.

He returned to the Albany Street station in central London as a uniformed officer and was promoted to Scotland Yard's community relations branch in 1978. The following year he assisted in the inquiry into the Southall riots.

As staff officer to Sir Kenneth Newman during the latter's tenure as commissioner, he has had an opportunity to see the job at first hand. Whether he will follow Sir Kenneth's rather cerebral approach or the Imbert school of closer relations with the public remains to be seen.

After a spell as assistant chief constable in Kent, Mr Condon took charge of the west London police area at a time of tension over the Notting Hill carnival before promotion to assistant commissioner in 1988. Some of the West Indian community there were less than impressed with his work and expressed concern at what they saw as a heavy-handed approach to the area when he was first mooted for the top job.

His move back to Kent as Chief Constable was a smart one. With 3,000 officers under his control, rather than the 28,000 at the Met, he has been able to push through changes and establish decentralised policing more smoothly than if he had been in a larger metropolitan force.

The 1992 annual report on his force by the Inspectorate was glowing: "Under the able leadership of an active chief officer, the force is well managed, giving excellent service and in the vanguard of change... the regular monitoring of public attitudes and expectations all assist the quality of service ethic."

Sickness levels in his force — often seen as an indicator of morale — are among the lowest in the country.

He has an occupational health unit and pushed through the use of psychiatric treatment and physiotherapy at a time when some of his contemporaries in other forces still regard them as optional extras.

But he has had little success in recruiting ethnic minorities to the force.

At present there are only 10 such officers, 0.3 per cent of the force, and the number of applicants from ethnic communities has dropped compared with the previous year.

The Kent job has thrown Mr Condon into the limelight because he has had policing responsibility for the English end of the Channel tunnel. Some of his officers now have experience working in France. He has encouraged members of his force to learn French and has worked with Wolfson College, Cambridge, to produce an English/French police lexicon. With the European boundaries going down next year, the chance to have as senior English police officer a man with a knowledge of and relationship with colleagues on the continent is clearly seen as desirable.

Married, with a daughter and two sons, he looks very much the traditional senior policeman — tall, straight-backed and rather serious. For relaxation, for which he will now have little time, he swims, reads and rides.



Paul Condon (above) is to be the new head of the Metropolitan Police. Duncan Campbell looks at his track record and that of his predecessor, Sir Peter Imbert (right)

Imbert: service rather than force

WHEN Sir Peter Imbert, one of seven children of a Kent farmer, took over as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in 1987, the force was widely seen as uncertain of its role and its relationship with the public.

His priority has been to make his officers realise that they can achieve little without convincing Londoners that they are a police service rather than a police force.

But the success or otherwise of his policies, often pushed through despite cynicism among some senior officers, will not be apparent for a few years yet. By then it will have become clear whether the ideals of the Plus programme — greater accountability and willingness to change — have reached the heart of the service as well as its head.

Down to earth, less of a theorist than his predecessor, Sir Kenneth Newman, and with a reputation for being straightforward to his officers, Sir Peter faced having his tenure cut short when he suffered a heart attack in 1990. But although he has sometimes

his decision to let the cameras in, and always pointed to the beneficial effect on rape inquiries.

He has been the most open of the commissioners at the Met, allowing camera crews full rein: director Robert Fleming is now working on a fly-on-the-wall series on the Yard itself.

Sir Peter moved back to the Met as deputy to Sir Kenneth and took over the top job in 1987 when confidence in the police was not at its highest. He commissioned a £150,000 report from the corporate consultants Wolff Olins entitled *A Force for Change* which looked at ways in which the normally defensive service could acknowledge errors and move forwards. Above all, he recognised that he needed the consent of the London public to police effectively.

The report showed a force uncertain of its role, and it was this uncertainty that Sir Peter tried to deal with in the Plus programme, which set the force the goal of being "compassionate, courteous and patient, acting without fear or favour or prejudice to the rights of others."

He has a black son-in-law and made it clear that he would not tolerate racism among his officers.

He stuck his neck out earlier this year — and angered the Police Federation — when he suggested that the punishment of loss of a day's pay for two officers who had racially abused a prisoner was too lenient.

He had hoped to see 1,000 ethnic minority officers in the force by the end of his tenure and is disappointed that he is still far from that mark, at 563 officers.

Never a freemason himself, Sir Peter made it clear that it would be best if senior officers relinquished their membership so that the public need have no suspicions. Some of his senior officers resigned from the order but others ignored him.

In dealings with the media, he made himself accessible but often felt slightly aggrieved when criticism of his force continued.

The IRA had him in its sights. He was due to speak at a Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism conference at the Royal Overseas League in London in September two years ago when a bomb was found under the speaker's lectern. He joked at the time that if he had known they were aiming to blow him up he would have worn an old suit.

Sir Peter tried to take the Metropolitan Police into the 1990s, to demystify the uniform and to build the bridges between police and public that he sensed were essential if order in the capital was not to break down irreparably.

He was often portrayed as a Gorbachev figure, preaching glasnost but having to watch his back for the hard-line "thief-takers" who did not take the Plus stuff too seriously. He survived to complete his full term but he knows that the job he started is far from complete.

Above all, he recognised that he needed the public's consent

looked weary, he recovered well enough to push through many of his reforms.

He had briefly toyed with the idea of a career in the church, but after Harvey grammar school in Folkestone and National Service in the RAF he joined the police in 1953. On duty at Bow Street, he made his first arrest to be greeted by the offender with the immortal words: "It's a fair cop, guv."

Years later Sir Peter would repeat this tale with some regret that the days when a police officer would automatically be believed had gone.

He rose through the ranks to become deputy operational chief in the Anti-Terrorist Squad and achieved what was then the highest profile of his career as the chief negotiator during the Balcombe Street siege of four IRA men holed up with hostage in a flat in central London in 1975. But his later dealings with the Guildford Four, two of whom he questioned about the Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings, returned his role in terrorism investigations to public scrutiny.

He moved on to become Thames Valley Chief Constable, when he took the then revolutionary step of allowing television cameras to film his team at work. Roger Graef's series, *Police*, became a classic of the genre, offering a warts-and-all portrait of the service. In particular its screening of a rape inquiry, in which the victim was subjected to insensitive interviews, led to changes in procedure. Sir Peter did not regret

GUARDIAN
23.10.92



● The police car which crashed into the garden wall in Dalston Lane last Friday.

Pcs hurt in patrol car crash

A POLICE car answering an emergency call crashed into a wall in Dalston Lane last Friday.

The driver, Pcs Simon Hobson and his passenger, Pcs Bruce Garside, from Stoke Newington police station, suffered whiplash injuries. No-one else was hurt.

The patrol car was travelling along Dalston Lane towards the Amhurst Road junction when it hit the wall on the corner of Wayland Avenue at 12.15pm. Oil gushed out onto the pavement and road and a 10 feet long crack appeared in the concrete wall. Tyre skid marks ran for at least 30 feet behind the car.

Mick Harvey, who lives in Dalston Lane, saw the car hit the wall from his upstairs

window. "The police were motoring down Dalston Lane with the blue light going and then crashed into the wall," he said.

Maureen Taylor, Mr Harvey's neighbour, said: "I heard a big bang while I was doing my ironing. Thankfully, no-one was there."

"It's such a busy corner. A lot of the kids who go to Amhurst School round the corner live on the Samuel Lewis Trust Estate and walk over that corner."

Chief Supt Roy Clark, of Stoke Newington police, said: "Police drivers have a dilemma."

"They receive 999 calls from people in great danger, who require them to get to the scene quickly.

"Frequently, by getting to the scene quickly, we're able to save lives."

"We do drive thousands of miles a day in the borough without anything like an accident."

Chief Supt Clark added that an investigation had been launched into the accident.

Delay fuels fears of police corruption inquiry whitewash

FEARS are growing that Operation Jackpot, Scotland Yard's biggest internal affairs investigation into allegations of drug dealing, bribery and corruption at Stoke Newington police station, may never see the light of day.

For 18 months officers under Det Supt Ian Russell have been investigating allegations of corruption at London's "supernick."

The report was expected to be delivered to the Director of Public Prosecutions last week, but it has been delayed and solicitors are worried it may be a whitewash.

Rife

Police watchdog group the Hackney Community Defence Association say corruption is still rife.

Graham Smith, of HCDA, says whatever the best intentions of Det Supt Russell the police establishment will try to ensure no officers are convicted of criminal offences.

Eight cops have been transferred, three of whom are suspended - Pcs Ronald Palumbo, Barry Lyons and James Galbraith are suspended.

Next week another Stoke Newington officer Det Sgt Roy Lewandowski will be in court charged with VAT fraud and theft.

Ida Oderinde, Everald Brown and Dennis Tulloch, convicted of drug dealing on the evidence of suspended officers, have been freed on bail pending appeal.

At a public meeting organised by HCDA at the Samuel Beckett pub in Stoke Newington Church Street on Tuesday, the *Fighting the Lawmen* pamphlet was launched - detailing the cases of Ida Oderinde, Rennie King, Hugh Prince and Dennis Tulloch's girlfriend, Lynne.

Eighteen Stoke Newington police officers were named and the Home Secretary was asked to launch a full judicial inquiry into policing in Hackney.

"We are looking at organised crime. There is a system when one officer goes away there is another to take his place," said Mr Smith.

"They call it Jackpot because it is bigger than any of them know, because some of the people are in high places," Ms Oderinde said.

Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clark, would not comment on specific allegations, but said the Operation Jackpot report had been delayed for a few weeks because new evidence had had to be included.

Pcs nominated for a bravery award

TWO brave Hackney cops who wrestled with a 13-stone woman as she tried to throw herself off the fifth floor of a Homerton tower block have been nominated for top awards for gallantry.

Pcs Clive Ingram and Kevin Sheppard were called to Banister House in Homerton High Street after residents spotted the woman sitting on a window ledge.

Their boss, Chief Insp Ken Day, is nominating them for the Royal Humane Society Award. "They tried to reassure her, but she became agitated and pulled herself further out onto the ledge," he says.

"Both officers thought she was going to jump and grabbed her. She must have weighed 13 stones, so they put themselves in considerable danger leaning over the edge. Firemen Len Hutton and Les Crowhurst, from Green Watch at Homerton, put up a ladder and threw a rope down to the window."

HG

23.10.92

Legal aid shake-up outlined

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

PLANS for a fundamental shake-up of the legal aid system to curb spiralling costs were outlined at the weekend by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor.

Solicitors at the Law Society's conference in Birmingham were told of a far-reaching strategy which the society's leaders said would restrict access to legal aid for those least able to afford it and concentrate it in the hands of larger, urban legal firms.

The proposals are certain to intensify the row between Lord Mackay and the profession — at loggerheads for the last two years over Lord Mackay's plan to replace hourly rates for solicitors in magistrates' courts with a system of standard fees.

The Lord Chancellor said legal aid spending had more than doubled over the last four years, and would cost the taxpayer more than £1 billion this

year. If the trend continued, the figure would be nearly £2 billion by the middle of the decade.

In 1991/92, legal aid rates rose by 7 per cent, nearly double the inflation rate, but the overall bill for legal aid increased by 33½ per cent, he said. "This rate of growth cannot be allowed to continue. Every extra pound for legal aid means a pound less for the NHS, for schools, for social security, or for the infrastructure of the economy."

No aspect of the present scheme was sacrosanct, Lord Mackay said. Legal aid must be aimed at those with the greatest need and at areas of work where it provided the most cost-effective service.

Legal aid should also be subject to a stricter means test, he said. Lawyers said this would hit families and those with mortgages hardest.

Lord Mackay added that those who got aid subject to a contribution should pay a larger share of the cost, contributing throughout the case instead of for the first year only.

Announcing firmer controls over magistrates' courts in granting legal aid for criminal cases, he said aid must be granted only where it was justified under present legislation. New regulations would detail the requirements to be met and the means-test information required from defendants.

Lord Mackay said he was becoming "increasingly convinced that there are areas where the traditional methods of solving disputes by recourse to the courts are not the best methods".

He signalled a move away from court battles in divorce cases and towards wider use of mediation to help couples resolve disputes. Lawyers interpreted this as a possible requirement on divorcing couples to try mediation before being allowed to apply for legal aid.

Moving on to controversial plans for the legal aid board to hive off legal aid work to firms on favourable terms, Lord Mackay said it seemed likely that much of the work would be

concentrated in firms with franchises. For some types of work in some regions, he wondered "whether it is really unthinkable" that clients on legal aid should have to go to firms with franchises.

He reiterated his determination to press ahead with standard fees in magistrates' courts by the end of the year, and said he would extend the existing standard fee scheme in crown courts to cover more cases.

Controls would be introduced on fees for civil cases, now paid at higher hourly rates than criminal cases. In the longer term, standard payments were likely for each stage of work. He would like to see competitive tendering by firms to undertake blocks of cases, both civil and criminal.

Henry Hodge, of the Law Society's legal aid committee, said: "If many of these things come to pass, we will see a radically altered legal aid system. Fewer people will be getting help, certainly in relation to civil legal aid, and points of access will be substantially reduced."

GUARDIAN

26.10.92

Murder case detective 'stole sacred books from victim's flat'

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A DETECTIVE investigating a murder stole books worth thousands of pounds from the victim's home, a north London court heard yesterday. The policeman abused his trust and lied to cover his tracks, the court was told.

Detective Constable Roy Lewandowski, aged 31, of Hornchurch, Essex, is charged with misbehaviour in a public office and six counts of theft. He pleads not guilty to all charges.

David Spens, prosecuting, told Harrow crown court that Mr Lewandowski had commendations for his "wonderful detective work" and his bravery.

The detective was part of an investigation into the death of David Leo Berman, an eccentric recluse, the court was told. Mr Berman died in June 1988 after being tied up and left by burglars.

He was unable to free himself, and his decomposing body was found four weeks after his death. In 1990 two men were convicted of his manslaughter.

Mr Berman had no friends or

relatives who could say what was missing from his flat in east London, his most valuable possessions being Jewish sacred texts. Mr Lewandowski's job was to ascertain what had been removed.

It became clear that the detective was obstructing Mr Berman's executors, Lloyds Bank Financial Services, by fabricating excuses for not letting them view the flat, Mr Spens said.

Mr Lewandowski then claimed the value of the property was not more than £50 and offered to have the flat cleared out.

In fact, said Mr Spens, it was worth around £3,000. He had stolen hundreds of books including the sacred Shass texts, worth £1,000, volumes of the Waverley novels, encyclopaedias, and other items.

In 1991, detectives found a number of items from Mr Berman's flat at Mr Lewandowski's home, then in Romford, Essex. His ex-wife, Laura, told the officers that he had claimed to have been given them, but she later heard him tell a valuer they were part of his family estate.

The case continues.

GUARDIAN

27.10.92



© Leslie Bailey - two more life sentences.

Catweazle's catalogue of evil

Phone call set a deadly trap

A RINGING phone in a call box on Hackney Marshes sealed the fate of Mark Tildesley - and who knows how many other children who fell into the clutches of the evil gang.

Reading Crown Court heard the call box was Leslie Bailey's "office." Smith was told to get to Wokingham. He recruited Bailey to drive, they met Cooke, who made the call, and the trap was set.

Mark scoffed massage and chips and, eager to get to the funfair, shouted: "Don't worry mum, I won't be late." They were the last words she heard her son say.

He got to the fairground at about 5.30pm on June 1, 1984, and headed straight for the dodgems. A pasty-faced stranger got into Mark's dodgem car and slipped a protective hand around his back.

The man's pockets were full of sweets bought at the Candy shop in Wokingham. A shop assistant noticed the scruff's unwashed smell and the court heard five other

people recalled seeing and smelling Cooke the day Mark disappeared.

Mark and the stranger left the fairground hand-in-hand. Bailey told the court he walked nearby in a white Triumph 2000 car with Smith in the front passenger seat.

Cooke and Mark got in the back, but only after the terrified boy tried to struggle free. They drove to the caravan with lace curtains in a field just outside town where the fourth man, "Oddbod", waited. Mark had just minutes to live.

Lavinia and John Tildesley expected him home at 7.30pm. When he didn't arrive, they went looking for him. His bike was found pedlocked to the fairground gates.

Six months later, detectives were no closer to solving the case. After the disappearance of Jason Swift in July, 1985, and Barry Lewis two months later and the discovery of their drugged and suffocated bodies, police realised they were hunting ruthless child killers.

LESLIE "Catweazle" Bailey has been given two life sentences for the "wicked and inhuman" manslaughter of funfair boy Mark Tildesley during an evil child sex orgy.

Feeble-minded Bailey, 37, from Ashmead House on the Kingmead Estate, Hoxton, is already in jail for life for murdering six-year-old Barry Lewis and is serving 15 years for the manslaughter of Hackney rent boy Jason Swift, killed at a £5-a-head orgy in a flat on the Kingmead. He will never be allowed out of prison.

Two other Hackney men, Sidney Cooke, 63 - jailed for 19 years for Jason's killing in 1985 - and Leslie Smith, 38, were named in court as the men behind seven-year-old Mark's death after he was abducted at a fairground in Wokingham, Berkshire, more than eight years ago.

But they did not stand trial at Reading Crown Court along with Bailey. Detectives revealed that they fought unsuccessfully to get Crown law-

Detectives ask: Why were other child killers not brought to trial?

yers to bring charges against them.

Ex-Chief Supt Roger Stoodley, who recently retired as head of Operation Orchid, the £4 million-plus inquiry into a string of paedophile-related killings, said: "Do these lawyers send more bodies before they will do something? We have the evidence. Let a jury decide."

A spokesperson for the Crown Prosecution Service said they had considered the evidence and found it "insufficient," adding: "It is always the case that decisions not to prosecute can be reviewed."

Bailey told the court Mark was killed after being drugged with milk spiked with a muscle relaxant, diampram, and sexually assaulted by a gang of paedophile fiends.

He said Smith, 38, from Hackney, Cooke, 63, from Oswald Mead, Kingmead Estate, and a fourth man, only known as "Oddbod" after the Frankenstein-like character in comedy film *Carry On Screaming*, were together in a disused caravan in a Berkshire field where Mark spent his last terrified hours.

Mark's body has never been found. The naked bodies of Barry and Jason were discovered within a few miles of each other in shallow graves in Essex at the end of 1985.

Sentencing Bailey last Thursday, Mr Justice Hadden said: "What you and the others did to that poor defenceless boy was totally horrifying, wicked and inhuman."



© Victims - Jason Swift and (below) Mark Tildesley.



Tenants welcome police cheque-up!



"COP that" says home beat officer Andy Conway as he hands over a £300 cheque to Anthony Burton, chair of the Regents Estate Community Centre and Tenants' Association. The money was awarded in recognition of the association's work in setting up karate, aerobics and bingo facilities for residents in the community hall in Brougham Road, Delton. Welcoming the cheque, which

was donated by the police union, the Police Federation, Mr Burton said: "It's very nice that the local home beat officer has noticed our work and nominated us for this money. It's nice to get any money or awards and we've had both. "We're planning to set up a teenage youth club in the New Year and the money may go towards buying some equipment for that," he added.

Cops collect £120 for mugged pensioner

THE long arm of the law stretched out a helping hand to an 89-year-old mugging victim.

Big-hearted cops at Stoke Newington police station had a whip-round for the woman pensioner from Geldstone Road, Upper Clapton, after she was snatched in the street and had her handbag containing £65 stolen.

"The collection was organised by the home beat police officer and we managed to raise £120 thanks to the generosity of uniform officers and detectives," said Insp Ian Christie.

The hunt goes on

OPERATION Orchid detectives fighting to bring to justice the pervers responsible for the deaths of Jason, Barry and Mark say the investigation goes on because of vital evidence provided by two sex offenders.

The pair - known as The Minstrel and The Fox and serving time for rape and attempted rape - were so disgusted with Bailey's vile boasts that they agreed to act as police spies, risking their own lives to trap the pervers.

During their secret investigations, The Fox, 38, compiled a dossier in which he says between 25 and 30 children were murdered by a 20-man gang of paedophiles.

The moles grew sick of

Bailey's twisted bragging when they shared a cell with him in Wandsworth Prison, where he was serving 15 years for the killing of Jason Swift.

Their information led to Bailey being sentenced to life for the murder of Barry and Mark's manslaughter.

Next month, as a result of their investigations, a Hackney man - who cannot be named - will appear at the Old Bailey charged with conspiracy to commit buggery and indecent assault on a juvenile.

And in December, another Hackney man appears charged with buggery and assault on a 14-year-old when the victim was aged just six.

Estate could hold the final clues

THE Kingmead Estate may still hold the key to unravelling the full story of the sad lives and deaths of as many as 30 missing kids and bringing to justice their gang of killers.

Former Operation Orchid boss, Chief Supt Roger Stoodley, told the Gazette between six and eight men were present when Jason Swift died.

Four men - Bailey, Cooke, Robert Oliver, 38, from the Frampton Park Estate, and Steven Barrett, 32, from Dagham - were jailed for a total of 62 years for manslaughter.

The Orchid team moved to Thames Valley Police headquarters in Reading. They retain an incident room at Arbour Square in Slough.

Det Supt Mike Short said: "We know Bailey is not the only pervers responsible for Mark's death. Others were involved - and at least one of them may be reading this."

"We appeal to that last spark of humanity that you might have left. On behalf of little Mark's family, where did you hid that poor child's body?"

If you can help, phone 0734 536740.

Canvasser clubbed over the head

A MAN was clubbed over the head as he canvassed for votes in a street where residents have been praised by police for helping to reduce crime.

David Bartlett (pictured left after the attack) needed 16 stitches in head wounds after he was hit with a lump of wood while canvassing for the Liberal Democrats in the forthcom-

ing Wick ward by-election.

The attack happened last Thursday evening in Anns Road, Victoria Park - one of six streets which come under a police Neighbourhood Watch scheme operated by the VADCH Residents' Association.

When Mr Bartlett refused to hand over his money or his

watch, the would-be thief - who had a red-and-white spotted handkerchief pulled over his face - struck him three times with a wooden club.

The assailant then ran off empty-handed.

Cdr Colin Beadle, the leader of Hackney's Liberal Democrats, described it as a "vicious attack".

Detective denies stealing from murdered man's flat

A DETECTIVE accused of the theft of thousands of pounds of property during a murder investigation told executors that there was nothing of any monetary value in the dead man's flat, Harrow Crown Court heard this week.

David Berman, an eccentric recluse, was found dead in the flat in Lower Clapton Road, Lower Clapton, in July, 1988.

He had been the victim of a burglary and two men were subsequently jailed for a total of 24 years after being convicted of his manslaughter.

This week's hearing was told that as Mr Berman had no relatives who could say what was missing fol-

lowing the burglary, it was the job of Det Con Roy Lewandowski, 31, to ascertain what had been stolen.

In 1991, police officers found a number of items from the flat at Lewandowski's home, said Mr David Spens, prosecuting.

Lewandowski, of Hornchurch, Essex, denies six charges of stealing property, including books, worth £3,000, and denies a charge that he fraudulently hindered executors.

© The trial continues.



HG
30.10.92

Police run mercy trips to Romanian orphans

CARING cop Sgt Mike Stratton has just returned from a mercy mission to orphan kids in Romania with the charity he himself set up.

The officer at Stoke Newington police station's Youth and Community Section took a 40-foot juggernaut loaded with desperately-needed supplies to the orphanage as part of the Lifeline Romania charity.

And in December he plans to bring 51 of the

by RUSS LAWRENCE

children over to England. Among the treats in store for them will be visits to famous London landmarks, including Buckingham Palace.

It was Sgt Stratton's sixth trip to the strife-torn eastern European country since the revolution to overthrow Communist dictator President Nicolae Ceausescu.

He organised the mercy trip, which was funded by the Metropolitan Police and the Tate and Lyle sugar company, who also provided the juggernaut and driver.

The trailer was loaded with food, clothing, children's bikes and toys as well as medical supplies, toilet rolls and disinfectant.

Its destination was an orphanage for 153 children in Tanacu, a town difficult to reach by road some 50 miles west of the Russian border in north-eastern Romania.

Sgt Stratton set up the charity after the Romanian police invited him to visit the country on a rugby tour.

"I made some derogatory remarks about their living conditions and they took me to see children orphaned by war or abandoned by their parents," he said.

"After seeing the hardship they were suffering, I thought 'what can I do to help?' and set up the charity."

Valuable

He took six other police staff with him on the latest trip, including Chief Insp Peter Snow and civilian employee Karen Arnold, both from City Road police station.

"Little things we wouldn't think twice about like a couple of boxes of broken chalk are of immense value to the kids there and kept them occupied for hours," said Sgt Stratton.

"The children are not as under-nourished as they used to be, but diet is a major problem and that is why we took a large supply of vitamin tablets."

"What are urgently needed are syringes, especially insulin syringes with needles. If anybody can supply me with sufficient numbers, I'm ready to fly out there immediately."

Anyone who can help should contact Sgt Stratton on 071-488 7102

If the caps fit...

STOKE Newington's top cop made the ultimate sacrifice when a party of visiting German policemen brought four of their spare caps to swap in exchange for some British bobbies' helmets.

Chief Supt Roy Clark and his men could only lay their hands on a couple. So, Chief Supt Clark did the honourable thing and presented them with his own cap.

The 15 police officers were among a group of 85 Germans from Hackney's twin town of Göttingen visiting the borough on a trip arranged by Hackney Organisation Supporting Twinning.



Chief Supt Roy Clark (right) receives a souvenir from Sgt Gustav Gans.

Trial halted as car dealer is cleared of murder

A MAN who admitted shooting dead a car dealer from Stamford Hill after allegedly branding the victim "a nigger" during a row over parking, walked free from the Old Bailey on Wednesday.

Angry scenes erupted in the public gallery after Barry Crane, 34, also a motor dealer, was cleared of the manslaughter and murder of Lloyd Davis, 28, who worked in Ravensdale Road, on the direction of the judge.

Crane was fined £1,000 for possessing a firearm without a licence. He had insisted he shot Mr Davis in self-defence after Mr Davis had lunged at him with a knife.

Judge Kenneth Richardson, QC, agreed with a defence submission that there was insufficient evidence to prove that Crane had intended or recklessly caused serious injury or death.

The trial was stopped at the end of the prosecution case and the judge directed the jury to find Crane not guilty. He had admitted the firearms offence, claiming he found the pistol in a car he had bought.

The court heard that the row started after Crane parked his car outside the second-hand car lot where Mr Davis worked.

The two men exchanged "light-hearted" words in the nearby Turnpike pub, said counsel, but three hours and several drinks later a heated argu-

ment flared. "The defendant insulted Lloyd Davis, calling him a nigger," said prosecutor Mr David Page.

"Mr Davis walked out. He was obviously very angry."

When he returned with a knife and a friend minutes later, he challenged Crane, who was standing in the doorway, to "say what you said in the pub."

As Mr Davis produced the knife, Crane opened his jacket to reveal the gun

at his waist. "Davis rushed forward and lunged with the knife at the defendant," said Mr Page.

"Crane retreated into the pub, then a shot rang out. Mr Davis came out of the doorway and was seen to be staggering and injured. The defendant raised the pistol, pointed it at Lloyd Davis and fired again."

A group of Mr Davis's friends chased Crane to a house in Leabourne Road

and were ripping up a fence to use as weapons when the police arrived.

The charge against Crane, who denied murdering Mr Davis on April 23 this year, rested on him shooting a second time as Mr Davis backed away.

But witnesses said the two shots rang out within seconds of each other and the court also heard that it could not be proved whether the first or second shot killed Mr Davis.

Wpc accuses police of bias

A WOMAN police officer has alleged she was sexually harassed while serving at Stoke Newington police station.

Pc Julia Parish, now based at West Ham, has started an action for sexual discrimination against the Metropolitan Police.

A preliminary hearing to decide whether she has grounds for a case went before an Industrial Tribunal panel on Tuesday.

The complaints relate to four officers, among them a former head of the police youth and community section at Stoke Newington police station.

At the time of the alleged incidents, Pc Parish, 31, was working in plain clothes in the Hackney child protection unit.

The complaints of harassment relate to her being passed over for promotion or given adverse reports.

A Scotland Yard spokesperson confirmed an allegation of sexual harassment had been made.

"We do have our own equal opportunities grievance procedure, but the woman police officer chose to go to an industrial tribunal," he said.

"We are, however, holding our own internal inquiry into the allegation," he said.

45

30.10.92

New sector policing scheme is unveiled

HACKNEY'S cops have unveiled a blueprint for the future policing of the borough with a special talk and slide show.

The borough's police watchdog group

by RUSS LAWRENCE

were given a presentation on radical new plans for sector policing which comes into operation next February.

Hackney's Police Community Consultative Group were first to see the new sector boundaries which cover the borough's two police divisions of Hackney and Stoke Newington.

They have been divided into smaller sectors, each with its own inspector and a team of officers responsible for round the clock policing of its patch.

And the Metropolitan Police's out-dated shift system is also being replaced because it is wasteful of manpower.

"Sector policing will make police more accountable to the community," explained Stoke Newington's Chief Supt Roy Clark.

At the moment, an officer might come on duty and race off to Dalston to deal with a road accident.

"No sooner has he done that than he gets an emergency call to Woodberry Down on the other side of the division, then he's immediately off again to deal with something else.

Problems

"He can really only offer a sticking plaster on the problem, but with a team of officers policing one small sector they will get to know the people and their problems."

Hackney and City Road police division has been divided into four sectors:- Hoxton - everything west of Kingsland Road; Queensbridge - everything east of Kingsland Road; Clapton - everything north of Homerton High Street; and Victoria - everything south of Homerton High Street.

Stoke Newington division has been divided into three sectors:- West - everything west of Kingsland Road; East - everything east of Kingsland Road; and Dalston - everything south of Shackleton Lane and Downs Park Road down to Englefield Road and Richmond Road.

Hungary for your money

BIG-HEARTED cabbies and coppers headed off in 12 black cabs for Hungary aiming to clock up miles and cash for the pioneering Peto Trust, which offers the last chance of help and hope for many disabled children.

They set off on the special long fare, a 1,250-mile round trip, from Hackney's Victoria Park on Wednesday of last week bound for Budapest, where the world-famous Peto Centre gives hope to both disabled children and adults - often regarded as beyond help by conventional treatment.

Now the Trust wants to raise money to spread their ideas in Britain.

And Hackney nick community cop Pc Rod Surman used his long arm of the law to swap pounding the beat for being a special cabbie.

"Someone had a sense of humour - because I come from Hackney they decided to throw me into a Hackney carlagel" quipped Pc Surman.

"But I am very keen to help the Trust."



● Bound for Budapest... Hackney cop Rod Surman.

HC

30.10.92

NEWS

IT'S BACK, AND ITS BAD

★ After almost a year the *Hackney Heckler* is back. Now produced by members of the Colin Roach Centre, it will continue as a hard-hitting, funny and practical broadsheet. We aim to encourage people to organise and to take direct action about situations that affect their lives, as it's obvious that we can't rely on the government, the council, etc, to take the necessary action for us: we can only rely on ourselves!★

TWO-FACED

★ On the recent huge miners' demonstration Hackney Lab-our Group marched with their banner. Yet these same hypocrites support the council when it cuts jobs and services.★

COLIN ROACH CENTRE

★ Hackney has a new centre set up with the aim of assisting people struggling together for a better future. It's been named the Colin Roach Centre in memory of the young black man who was murdered in Stoke Newington Police Station in 1983.

A number of groups and individuals are already involved with the centre, including the workers and some of the management committee of the Hackney Trade Union Support Unit (phone 071-249 8086), Hackney Community Defence Association (071-249 0193), and the Turkish and Kurdish community group Halkder, and the centre is developing a membership, supportive of those groups, but independent of them.

For more information phone either of the numbers above.

WE REMEMBER

The official opening of the Colin Roach Centre is to take place on January 12th 1993, the tenth anniversary of Colin's death. A plaque will be unveiled at the centre, followed by the H.C.D.A. 'We Remember' Commemoration March to Stoke Newington Police Station, where wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who have died at the hands of Hackney police. Assemble 6.30pm in Bradbury Street on Tuesday 12th January. Bring your friends.★

MY MATE'S A DRUG DEALER

Did you hear the one about the police officer who was earning as much as £2000 per week from drug dealing? His name is Roy Lewandowski, a.k.a. Officer X, a one-time detective constable with Stoke Newington Drug Squad. Although not charged with drugs offences as yet, he's just been in court on a theft charge, and is also facing charges of VAT fraud.

In Policespeak, this man is not a criminal, he's "a rotten apple." And he's been taken out of the barrel - temporarily at least - because he's been suspended from duty. Poor old Scotland Yard, hard pressed to deal with the booming drugs trade, had a problem choosing who to investigate Lewandowski and his mates. So they decided it should be an inside man - not just another officer from the Met., but an officer who knew both the area and the people involved. Who better than Superintendent Ian Russell who used to work in Hackney.

So long as the police investigate themselves, so long as Stoke Newington Drug Squad is investigated by Scotland Yard, so long as they appoint officers "familiar with the territory", they treat our community with contempt.

So long as they insist that it's just a matter of a few rotten apples, and refuse to look at the opportunities for police crime and take away some of the police's powers, our community will be the victims of crime - whether by ordinary decent criminals or police officers.



FIGHTING THE LAWMEN

The cartoon above is taken from the front of a new booklet from Hackney Community Defence Association on the Stoke Newington drug scandal. It includes personal accounts by four Hackney people effected by Stoke police's drug dealing exploits, three of whom have served prison sentences after having been planted with drugs, and gives an account of HCDA's investigation into the station based on 40 cases of police corruption.

Fighting The Lawmen is available for £1.00 from Centreprise and other decent bookshops, (or for £2.00 by post from HCDA, The Colin Roach Centre, 10a Bradbury St, N16).

STRIKING OUT

The council always tries to make its workers out to be the enemy, blaming them for lack of repairs, poor services, delayed benefit claims, whatever. As usual, they're lying. Most council workers aim to do their best while being attacked by their management.

The workers in Housing Benefits have shown a way forward; faced with a mounting workload, a management proposed staff reduction and a cut in wages they decided that enough was enough and walked out on strike.

Four weeks strike got management to see the error of their ways. The workers didn't get everything they wanted - but they certainly got a lot more than if they had just passively sat by while the council shat on them from a great height. It just shows: if you want something, you've got to fight for it...and there's no use in complaining if you're not willing to fight.

employment rights
fighting racial harassment
immigration
policing
squattling
poll tax
housing
education
trade union rights
social security

**ADVICE
SURGERIES**

starting
TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY
and
FIRST & THIRD TUESDAYS
OF EACH MONTH
thereafter
6.30 - 8.30 PM
at the
COLIN ROACH CENTRE
10a Bradbury St, Dalston, N16

Corruption at Stoke Newington

Aseta Simms, Michael Ferreira, Colin Roach ... the names speak of the long association which north London's Stoke Newington police station has with allegations of racism, violence and malpractice.

Hackney Community Defence Association statistics show that Stoke Newington's reputation has not changed. In 1990, 141 cases alleging police malpractice were reported to the organisation. Out of the 76 it dealt with, 55 were from black people. In 30 cases, people were injured, in 11 cases seriously enough to go to hospital.

The local community's fears over Stoke Newington police station have been borne out by recent developments. Earlier this year, eight officers from the station were moved to new duties elsewhere following allegations of drug dealing. The complaints, which are being investigated by the anti-corruption squad at Scotland Yard as part of 'Operation Jackpot', relate to the reselling of drugs seized by police on the street, the fabrication of evidence, and the beating of suspects. A ninth policeman had already been moved from the station, and a tenth, Gerrard Carroll, killed himself with his service revolver.

In June, two of the policemen, DC Ronald Palumbo and PC Bruce Galbraith, were suspended after being named in the House of Commons. A third officer was suspended in September.

So far, about 10 appeal cases and five civil actions involve allegations of criminal activity by Stoke Newington police. In June, a Shadwell man had charges of possessing drugs withdrawn because of prosecution concern about the credibility of police evidence.

But no one knows for sure how many

prosecutions might be tainted by the involvement of discredited policemen. Twelve firms of solicitors and 19 barristers have written to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills, complaining that the Crown Prosecution Service, which she heads, was not disclosing information revealed by the Scotland Yard investigation. Without the information it is impossible to tell which prosecutions are unreliable.

The investigation into racism and corruption at Stoke Newington is long overdue. But we should remember previous efforts to clean up the Metropolitan Police, like Operation Countryman in the 1970s, which, while achieving a few prosecutions of 'small fish', failed utterly to root out corruption and completely ignored police racism.

Hackney Community Defence Association has produced a pamphlet on police crime in Hackney and Stoke Newington, *A crime is a crime is a crime*, and is preparing another report, *Fighting the lawman*, on some of the cases under investigation in 'Operation Jackpot', which will be available shortly. ■

HCDA can be contacted at: Colin Roach Centre, 10A Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN. Tel. 071-249 0193.



CARF

NOV/DEC 92

CHITTY, CHITTY, BANGED UP

In Class War 56's Stokey Cokey article we put the finger on PCs Carroll and Lewandowski who were involved with "organised crime".

These bastards were planting the coke drug, crack, on people, selling the stuff, making loads of cash, and the results? Filthy rich filth, and more misery for the working class of London's Stoke Newington.

Luckily, Carroll topped himself, ridden with guilt for his sick crimes.

ROUND TWO

The second stage in the Stokey scandal has come to light with Judge Francis Aglionby, at the centre of drug trials at Snaresbrook crown court, dropping a £5,000 crack trial against Ray Simpson, due to totally misleading and falsified evidence from none other than Stoke Newington



cops.

Looks like the cops in question have been raiding peoples' houses, planting drugs, fitting them up and totally cocking up their 'evidence'.

And who's the chief witness against Simpson? PC Terence Chitty. Now Terry just happens to be right up to his neck in finest police horse manure with the top brass at Scotland Yard. He's being investigated for: "trying to

organise a police drugs ring, planting drugs on a suspect, fabricating evidence and lying on oath".

Terry's not alone: there's another 50 cops, past and present from the same Stoke Newington nick, under investigation for the same profiteering, nasty anti-social crimes.

COVER UP

At the time of writing, only a poxy 3 cops have been found guilty, with the police internal enquiry doing its best, as usual to protect its own, even when they bring shit and danger onto our streets, and making their filthy profit in the bargain.

The evidence speaks for itself, m'lud - string the bastards up.

CLASS WAR

NO 57.

NOV 92

London boroughs want police pay determined by efficiency

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

POLICE constables should be paid according to their efficiency without having to seek promotion, the Association of London Authorities is to suggest to the Sheehy inquiry on the role of the police.

An ombudsman should replace the Police Complaints Authority and officers facing disciplinary proceedings should no longer be able to escape them by retiring on medical grounds.

All written evidence to the inquiry has to be submitted by today.

The Association of Chief Police Officers will unveil its recommendations later today and the Police Federation will announce its tomorrow after it has informed members of its proposals.

The main aim of the inquiry, chaired by Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT Industries, is to produce recommendations which will allow more effective use to be made of police resources. It will examine the rank structure and pay of offi-

cers and report by next May. The submission from the Association of London Authorities suggests:

- Fixed term and performance related contracts for senior officers.
- Enhanced salaries for more competent constables.
- Equal opportunities action to become a central feature of police performance, with targets set for each force.
- The establishment of an Office of Criminal Justice ombudsman to take over the role of the Police Complaints Authority, to form an independent complaints investigations procedure apart from the police and "to fully overhaul existing complaints practices and re-establish public confidence".
- Power to dismiss officers for incompetence.
- The ending of open-ended sick pay entitlements.
- A stop to the avoidance of disciplinary investigations by retirement on medical grounds.
- Creation of an elected police authority for London.

Derek Sawyer, police spokesman for the association, said: "We are in no doubt about the urgency and importance of this

inquiry. It is unlikely we will have another such investigation this century."

The association is anxious to promote the plan whereby constables who are not interested in promotion but do a good job are properly rewarded, even to the extent of earning more than officers of a higher rank.

A submission last month from the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities has already urged the inquiry to reform the ranking structure and scrap the sick leave arrangements.

These associations also suggested fixed term contracts for senior officers, longer holidays and pay rises in line with equivalent workers.

Although the inquiry has six months to make its recommendations, it seems that the ending of some ranks, such as chief superintendent and chief inspector, an agreed procedure for dismissal of inefficient officers and additional pay for good performance are all more than possible. Overtime could be abolished, as it has already been in the prison service, and replaced with salary increases.

GUARDIAN

2.11.92

Senior police urge faster promotions

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

TALENTED police officers should be able to skip ranks, chief officers could be offered fixed-term contracts and efficiency bonuses, and overtime pay should be rationalised, the Sheehy inquiry into police rewards and responsibilities was told yesterday.

But the Association of Chief Police Officers, in its written submission to the inquiry chaired by Sir Patrick Sheehy, urged that a rank structure and an annual agreed pay review should be retained.

Recommendations by the ACPO, which represents the 250 most senior officers in England and Wales, include:

- The abolition of the police housing allowance with suitable compensation.
- An end to open-ended sick pay.
- A rationalisation of overtime arrangements for constables and sergeants and the removal of entitlement to overtime pay for chief inspectors and inspectors, giving them the same status as superintendent ranks, who are paid according to their 24-hour operational responsibility.
- The introduction of fixed term contracts for chief police officers, for periods between three and five years.
- A more flexible approach to the pay structure so that good constables and those, such as custody officers, with major responsibilities could be rewarded without promotion.
- Guidance on how officers could rise two ranks at a time,

for instance an inspector by-passing chief inspector to become superintendent.

- Pay and conditions to be written into a statutory code.

John Burrow, president of the ACPO and chief constable of Essex, said it was essential that good officers were attracted and kept in the service.

The police could not strike or take industrial action and their annual pay review had to be protected. But he saw the need to reward good junior officers. Police authorities should also be able to pay chief officers above the agreed minimum in the way that local authorities could reward senior local government officers.

Eifion Pritchard, assistant chief constable of Dyfed-Powys, said that pay for foreseeable overtime should remain, but unforeseeable overtime should be reviewed and possibly rolled into a salary.

Sick leave should not continue after six months without a chief constable's agreement, unless it was the result of injury or disease directly resulting from an officer's work, say the proposals.

Paul Whitehouse, deputy chief constable of West Yorkshire, argued against recent suggestions that a number of ranks could be scrapped: "The retention of a rank structure is essential." In the event of disasters and major public disorders the person in charge had to be easily identifiable.

The Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, reveals its proposals today. It is likely to have reservations about the ACPO's suggestions on housing, overtime and sick pay.

GUARDIAN

3.11.92

Federation seeks police university

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A POLICE university which would issue degrees and diplomas should be set up, the Police Federation has told the Sheehy inquiry into the service's roles and responsibilities.

The university, which would incorporate the present police training centres, could operate in a similar way to the Open University, the federation suggests. It would allow officers to gain qualifications recognised outside the service.

Other proposals from the federation, which represents 126,000 officers in England and Wales up to the rank of superintendent, include:

- ☐ Annual pay bonuses for officers who have performed well, to be awarded after a proper appraisal by immediate superiors;
- ☐ A flattening of the rank structure, with initial removal of the rank of chief inspector and eventual removal of that of chief superintendent;
- ☐ Retention of the annual index-linked pay award;
- ☐ Full constable's salary to be paid only after a probationer has completed foundation training and is able to patrol unaccompanied: the saving could fund the appraisal-related pay.

Alan Eastwood, national chairman of the federation, said

yesterday that most officers remained constables throughout their careers, and it was essential that those who chose not to seek promotion should be properly rewarded. "For too long the police service has been designed just for those seeking promotion," he said. "We want to move away from those days."

However, those carrying out appraisals would have to be properly trained, he said. At present, few officers respected appraisals as they were felt to be affected by favouritism.

Vee Nelld, secretary of the federation, said that although a police university would be expensive in the short term it would save money eventually by incorporating training colleges such as Hendon and Bramshill.

The university would train police and civilian personnel and would include awareness training and equal opportunities.

The proposals were announced to a meeting of 2,000 federation members in central London on Monday night.

The federation criticised several of the proposals to the inquiry made on Monday by the Association of Chief Police Officers, which represents the most senior ranks. The suggested abolition of open-ended sick leave indicated that ACPO believed officers were malingering, Mr Eastwood said.

GUARDIAN

4-11-92

Dealing the dirt

Corrupt officers may still be working at Stoke Newington police station, ten months after *Time Out* first lifted the lid on alleged drug dealing and fitting up of suspects. Denis Campbell reports on fresh accusations of corruption.

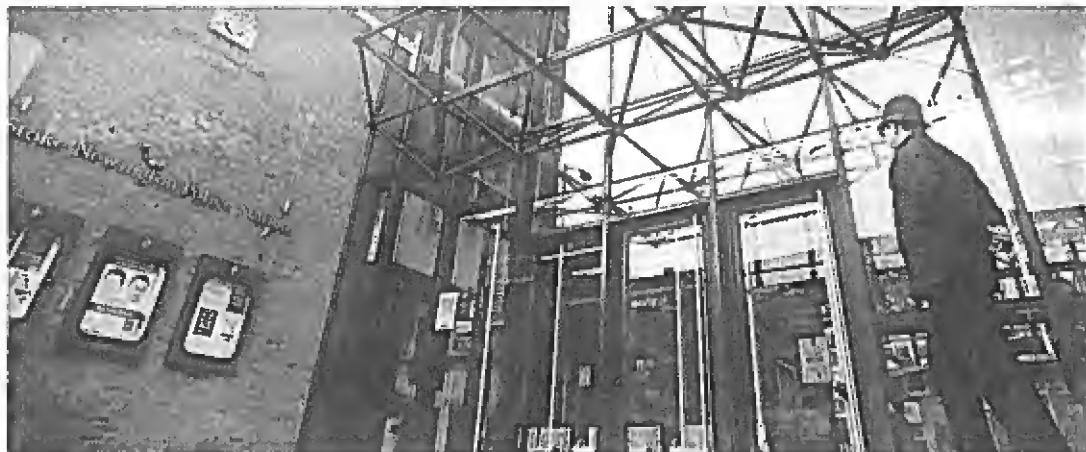


A policeman at scandal-hit Stoke Newington police station tried to organise a drug-dealing ring, and twice fitted up a man who refused to help him, a court was told last week.

The officer, PC Terence Chitty, planted drugs on Michael Thompson to force him to supply the names of big-time 'crack' dealers with whom corrupt police officers could do business, Snaresbrook Crown Court was told.

Peter Hall, counsel for Thompson, claimed in court that certain officers needed to find a replacement for Pearl Cameron, a major local dealer who was being supplied by at least one policeman, named only as Officer X, who was making £1,000 a week from the deal.

Hall said that officers, aware that



cution, dismissed the suggestions as 'ludicrous, idiotic nonsense'. Thompson had been caught red-handed with crack, and had invented the 'police drugs ring' story to try to discredit the arresting officers.

Newington police have sold drugs, fitted up suspects, stolen drugs and money and taken bribes, headed by Det Supt Ian Russell.

Graham Smith of the Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA), a local watchdog group which has played a key role in exposing the corruption, said the verdict suggested the problems at Stoke Newington went further than the eight officers already transferred.

He said: 'Det Supt Russell is starting from the premise that there are a few rotten apples and has therefore limited his inquiry to particular officers and a particular period of time. He should be looking at the problem of organised police crime at Stoke Newington station.'

Fears about the station will be fuelled by further evidence gathered by *Time Out* about the integrity of PCs Chitty and Carroll.

● Both officers were accused in court of lying on oath to try to convict suspected drug dealer Wayne Laing. Despite their testimony that they caught him with 20 'rocks' of

crack, Laing was acquitted of possession with intent to supply the Class A drug. He pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of having had just four rocks on him, for personal use, when challenged by the officers. In court, Chitty and Carroll were quizzed about how Laing (pictured) received serious injuries to his eyes, head and neck while in their custody.

● Last November, a man who cannot be named for legal reasons was acquitted of possessing one rock of crack. He claimed the drug was planted by PC Carroll and another officer, DC Peter McCullough, who then allegedly subjected him to a vicious assault. His case was that he was approached on Sandringham Road by the two officers who jumped on him, punched him in the eye and then planted him. Cross-examined about the case last week, Carroll claimed the man attacked him and 'he was put very forcefully on the ground. He was a very violent man.' The man was so badly injured that he had to be rushed to Moorfields Eye Hospital, where a surgeon said the retina of his right eye had been damaged. His solicitor, Raju Bhatt, told *Time Out* that his client is now suing the police for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

In a further development last week, Eula Carter, a woman on holiday in London from Jamaica who was jailed despite claiming she too was 'fitted up' by Stoke Newington police, was freed on bail from a four-year prison sentence and granted leave to appeal by the High Court. Carter's freeing stems from the crucial role played in her case by Det Con Bary Lyons, one of three Stoke Newington officers suspended as a result of the Jackpot inquiry.

Three other alleged drug dealers have already been freed because of doubts about Lyons' evidence.



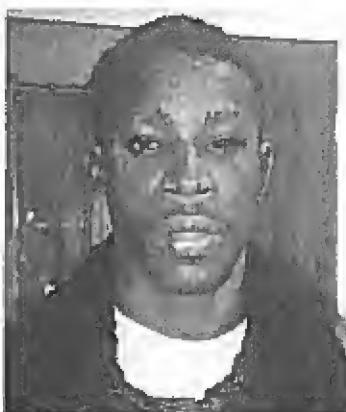
Michael Thompson: acquitted last week

Cameron was about to be arrested, believed 38-year-old Thompson — a well-known crack addict, who used several suppliers — would help them identify dealers whom they could start supplying.

But Thompson, despite agreeing to 'call some names' in return for not being prosecuted, failed to deliver. Chitty then forged Thompson's signature on a custody record in a second attempt to get him convicted, it was alleged. The police faked the document so they could claim that Thompson had absconded, and thus cover up their attempt to recruit him as an informer, Peter Hall claimed.

Chitty allegedly told Thompson in his cell at Stoke Newington station: 'We want some top names. We don't want small dealers or street dealers, no hash names. We want cocaine dealers, people dealing from houses' [on Sandringham Road, Hackney's notorious drug-dealing 'Front Line'].

Samuel Katkhuda, for the prose-



Wayne Laing after his 'assault'

However, Thompson was cleared last week on a charge of possessing the 'planted' crack, after claiming he had been the victim of a conspiracy by some Stoke Newington officers to pervert the course of justice. He is likely to sue the police.

The evidence of the three main prosecution witnesses — Chitty and PCs Mark Carroll and James Havercroft — was apparently not accepted by the Snaresbrook jury.

The unanimous 'not guilty' verdict is a disaster for the police because both PC Chitty, the officer at the centre of the alleged conspiracy, and PC Havercroft, are still serving at Stoke Newington. Neither was among the eight officers transferred from the north London station in January in a massive anti-corruption drive 'to preserve public confidence'.

Questions are now being asked about the thoroughness of Operation Jackpot, Scotland Yard's internal inquiry into claims that Stoke

'He [Det Supt Russell] should be looking at the problem of organised police crime at Stoke Newington station.'

GRAHAM SMITH, HCDA

Police ruined VAT raids, MPs told

CORRUPT Stoke Newington cops allegedly tipped off suspects due to be raided by Customs and Excise men investigating VAT fraud, according to Hackney North MP Diane Abbott.

Speaking in the House of Commons, she called on Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke to make public as soon as possible the findings of Operation Jackpot, Scotland Yard's 19-month inquiry into accusations that a network of bent cops at London's "supernick" netted tens of thousands of pounds dealing and planting drugs and taking bribes.

Scotland Yard say the report is days away from going to Britain's top lawyer, Barbara Mills, boss of the Crown Prosecution Service.

Ms Abbott said the Jackpot inquiry was not set up because of evidence supplied by drug dealers, but by disgruntled VAT men

by MARK GOULD

whose swoops on suspect Stoke Newington businesses always drew a blank.

"Time and time again Customs and Excise officials planned VAT raids in Stoke Newington jointly with the local police. They arrived only to find the suspects gone," she told the Commons.

"Customs and Excise began to believe Stoke Newington police

were on the take, as when they planned raids without the police, suspects would be there when they arrived."

"This may sound like the kind of allegations suspected drug dealers would be bound to make, but the investigation arose not because of complaints from my constituents but because Customs and Excise believed that the police must be on the take," she added.

Last week, Michael Thompson, 38, charged with a drug of-

fence on evidence from officers at Stoke Newington, was acquitted at Snaresbrook Crown Court.

Three other people, Ida Oderinde, Dennis Tulloch and Everal Brown, have been freed on bail pending appeal against jail terms handed out on evidence from Stoke Newington cops now under investigation.

Since May, 1989, at least 40 people jailed for drug offences on evidence from Stoke Newington cops have complained of police dirty tricks.

Shot man's family blast fine for killer

THE angry family of Lloyd Davis, shot dead following a row over a parking space, are demanding justice after his killer walked free with a £1,000 fine — for having a gun without a licence.

Car dealer Barry Crane, 34, was fined by an Old Bailey judge after he admitted shooting car salesman Lloyd Davis, 28, who had accused him of double parking.

Crane told the court he found the pistol that fired the fatal shots in a car he bought. He said he kept it in his jacket for safe keeping.

The Davis family, from Craven Park Road, Stamford Hill, hope to get legal aid to take out a rare civil prosecution for murder.

Hackney Law Centre in Mare Street has made a formal complaint on their behalf to the Crown Prosecution Service about the way the prosecution case was handled.

The dead man's sister, Pauline, 25, who is five months' pregnant, told the Gazette: "How am I going to teach my child to respect the law when this happens?"

"What is a man doing walking around Stamford Hill with a gun. This is London, not New York.

"The law have said my brother was shot dead and no crime was committed. How can that be right? You can't shoot someone and walk free.

by MARK GOULD

"I expected a sentence of five or 10 years — but nothing. What happened to manslaughter?"

At the Old Bailey last week, Judge Kenneth Richardson, QC, said Crane acted in self-defence when he shot Mr Davis once through an arm and again through the heart and lungs after an argument over the way Mr Crane parked outside the Stoke Newington car showroom where Mr Davis worked.

The judge stopped the trial at the end of the prosecution case because he agreed with defence lawyer Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, that there was not en-

ough evidence that Crane had intended or recklessly caused serious injury or death.

"This man said he was a car dealer who earned £1,000 a week," said Pauline. "The judge fined him a week's wages and then gave him six months to pay."

"Where is the justice? It all comes down to money. He said he bought the best criminal lawyer in the country."

The shooting happened outside the Tumpike pub on April 23. Mr Davis's mum, Alice, 57, watched helplessly as 999 crews tried in vain to give him the kiss of life.

"I shouted 'let me do it, I'm his mother' — but they wouldn't let me," she told the Gazette.

Judge attacks 'fault line' in drugs evidence



Judges are becoming 'increasingly concerned' that drugs prosecutions involving police officers from scandal-hit Stoke Newington station are relying on 'conflicting evidence'.

The disclosure came last week from Judge Francis Aglionby when he suddenly halted a drugs case at Snaresbrook Crown Court because of discrepancies in the prosecution's evidence. Aglionby said: 'There is a fault line right to the heart of the prosecution case,' which he said was 'hopelessly flawed'.

After ordering the jury formally to acquit Raymond Simpson, 37, of possessing £5,000 worth of 'crack' cocaine with intent to supply, the judge went on: 'I am very worried about conflicting evidence going before the jury and the jury having to decide which prosecution witness they believe.'

'I have to say that a number of these [Stoke Newington] police drugs raids come before the courts at Snaresbrook and a number of judges, of whom I am one, are getting increasingly concerned that conflicting evidence is put by the prosecution to the jury, which puts a very difficult position before a jury and indeed the judge.'

One of the main witnesses against Simpson was PC Terence Chitty, who is still serving at Stoke Newington, which is the centre of a major corruption inquiry by Scotland Yard. *Time Out* revealed last week that in a case which had just finished, Chitty was accused of — but denied — trying to organise a police drugs ring, planting drugs on a suspect, fabricating evidence and lying on oath.

In a separate, significant move, the Court of Appeal will hold a preliminary hearing into the cases of the four alleged drugs dealers who have already been freed on bail amid doubts over evidence given by Stoke Newington police at their trials. The decision to take the four cases together, thought to be without legal precedent, may lead to the arrest of some police officers.

Meanwhile, *Time Out* has learned that almost 50 past or present officers from the north London station have now been served with Regulation Seven notices, warning them that they are under investigation, as part of Operation Jackpot, Scotland Yard's internal inquiry into the corruption scandal.

TIME OUT

11.11.92

Cutbacks in legal aid provision are likely to affect 7m people

The law

Clare Dyer

SWINGING cuts to the legal aid scheme — removing or outpricing an estimated 7 million people — were outlined yesterday by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, in an attempt to curb soaring expenditure.

The changes — the first cuts in the scheme's 42-year-history — mean that only the unemployed and those with incomes near benefit levels will qualify for free legal help. The Law Society said many on low incomes will be deterred by the contributions required.

The measures are designed to contain expenditure forecast to rise to £1.5 billion by 1995/96, compared with £426 million five years ago. The announcement, in a parliamentary answer, coincided with the provision of an extra £400 million for legal aid next year in the Autumn Statement.

From next April, the upper limit of disposable income will be cut from £3,060 a year to the income support limit, £2,213. Allowances for dependants will also be cut.

The changes will apply to

civil and criminal legal aid for court cases, and the green form scheme, covering legal advice.

In a surprise move, Lord Mackay is to limit access to the advice scheme, now widely used in divorce cases, to people on income support or with similar levels of earnings.

Those qualifying for either criminal or civil legal aid with a contribution will have their payments increased from one-quarter to one-third of disposable income above £2,213, and will have to pay throughout the case, rather than, as now, for just the first year.

Lord Mackay reiterated his determination to replace solicitors' hourly rates for magistrates court work by standard fees from the beginning of next year. He announced that he would introduce fixed hourly rates for solicitors in civil legal aid cases and "take corresponding steps to gain control" over civil legal aid payments to barristers.

The Law Society immediately condemned the plans and said it would fight them. Cuts to the green form scheme would particularly affect people facing family breakdown, asylum seekers and others whose immigration status was in doubt, it said.

GUARDIAN

13.11.92

Anger over armed

A FAMILY whose house was raided by gun-toting Hackney cops are suing the police for false arrest and assault.

Cops went to three homes searching for Patrick Grant, 26, after they received an anonymous tip-off that he was holding his girlfriend hostage at gunpoint.

Despite armed raids on his girlfriend's house in Oswald Street and the Grant family home in Overbury Street, Lower Clapton, where the front door was sledgehammered, neither Mr Grant nor a gun was found.

After the raids in March, Hackney's top cop, Chief Supt Bernard Taffs, went and apologised with chocolates and flowers to Mr Grant's girlfriend's family.

But Mr Grant claims police have tried unsuccessfully to get him jailed for years and the whole thing was an excuse to get him.

"I have got one of those scanners to listen to the police radio," he says. "They came here, but I left because I didn't want to get shot at."

"My two-year-old nephew was in the hallway when they raided. There was glass everywhere that could have hit him."

"My brother was taken out and handcuffed. There were three cops with rifles and an officer with a handgun."

Nightclothes

"They marched my brother's girlfriend out. She was only dressed in nightclothes and she was barefoot."

Mr Grant's brother, Stephen, 23, and sister, Carol, 21, went to Hackney Law Centre, who made formal complaints about the raid and started civil proceedings for compensation.

The Law Centre is also fighting a court claim for compensation after Stephen's acquittal by a jury at Inner London Crown Court in 1988.

Law Centre lawyers say they successfully argued cannabis was planted on him by officers from Hackney police station.

After the raid, Patrick Grant was fined for possession of the radio scanner.

Chief Supt Taffs told the Gazette: "The suggestion that there is a vendetta against Patrick Grant is nonsense. We are not the Mafia, we are an accountable organisation."

by MARK GOULD

police's 'hostage' swoop



● Patrick Grant - claims police are out to get him.

"Mr Grant is known to officers who police that part of the ground. We do keep intelligence on people."

"I can't comment on the Stephen Grant case as I do not know the circumstances," added Chief Supt Taffs. "The verdict doesn't mean that the officers did wrong."

"Sometimes we feel that there are injustices when the police don't get the benefit of the doubt of the jury."

I had paintings from dead man's flat identified, detective tells court

A DETECTIVE constable charged with theft during a murder inquiry four years ago described as worthless the items he took from the home of a recluse in Lower Clapton.

"I did take paintings down to auction rooms to see if they were of any worth. It was only to see if anyone could identify them," Roy Lewandowski, 31, told Harrow Crown Court on Monday.

He said getting items valued was part of the investigation into the death of David Berman at his flat in Lower Clapton Road in July, 1988. Two men were jailed in 1990 after being convicted of Mr Berman's manslaughter.

While Lewandowski was giving evidence on Tuesday, the trial was interrupted. The jury was dismissed for most of the afternoon and proceedings were held in camera.

The hearing continued in full on Wednesday. "I was investigating a complaint by a member of the public about someone who was involved in this trial," said Judge Henry Palmer. "I found no foundation for the complaint."

Lewandowski is alleged to have paid a house clearance man £50 for a quantity of books, furniture, coins and stamps without obtaining permission from the executors.

"The trustees had entrusted me to take the items out of the house," he told the court. Earlier, he admitted he had a great interest in collectable items.

● The trial continues.

Judge raps conflicts in drug case evidence

JUDGES are becoming "increasingly concerned" about conflicting prosecution evidence in drug cases brought before the courts from scandal-hit Stoke Newington police station.

Judge Francis Alington made his remarks after sensationally halting a crack dealing case at Snaresbrook Crown Court and directing the jury to acquit Raymond Simpson, 37, of possessing £5,000-worth of crack, with intent to supply.

During the trial the prosecution had alleged Simpson, of High Road, Tottenham, was dealing drugs out of the Jerk Chicken takeaway restaurant in Sandringham Road on Dalston's notorious "Front Line."

The judge halted the trial because of discrepancies in the evidence of two brothers who had been looking after the restaurant and who had been called by the Crown as prosecution witnesses.

'Fault line'

"There is a fault line right to the heart of the prosecution case which is hopelessly flawed," said the judge.

"I am very worried about conflicting evidence going before the jury and the jury having to decide which prosecution witnesses to believe."

"I have to say that a number of these (Stoke Newington) police drugs raids come before the courts at Snaresbrook and a number of judges, of whom I am one, are getting increasingly concerned that conflicting evidence is put by the prosecution to the jury, which puts a very difficult position before a jury and indeed a judge."

"I know it is difficult, but I do think these sort of cases need very careful attention and expert assessment before they come anywhere near the courts."

Earlier the court heard that a number of Stoke Newington officers, including Pc Terence Chitty and Sgt Clifford

Details about police swoop were flawed

Edens, swooped on the premises on February 7 this year with a search warrant. Pc Chitty gave evidence to say that he saw Simpson drop packages containing crack in amongst some cardboard boxes.

Simpson was later interviewed in the presence of Pc Chitty and maintained he had been "fitted up" by the officer.

Last week at the same court, 38-year-old Michael Thompson - who alleged that Pc Chitty had planted crack on him when he failed to deliver names of big dealers of the drug - was cleared by a jury on a charge of possession of crack.

Pc Chitty, who is still serving at Stoke Newington police station, is one of almost 50 past and present officers at the station who have been served with regulation seven notices.

Under investigation

These warn them they are under investigation as part of Operation Jackpot, Scotland Yard's internal investigation into corruption, which is expected to be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions within the next few days.

Stoke Newington's top cop, Chief Supt Roy Clark, said it was for the police to gather the evidence and up to the Crown Prosecution Service to decide which witnesses should be called and how a case is presented to the court.

"I cannot comment about individual cases or officers," he added, "although I will be discussing the judge's comments with the CPS."

Pc foils plunge

BRAVE cop Tim Hargreaves saved the life of a woman who threatened to jump from the sixth-floor window of Addington Point on the Blackstone Estate, London Fields.

The bobby, based at Hackney, was called out by neighbours who saw the woman threatening to jump on Sunday afternoon.

Pc Hargreaves managed to talk her down and bring her back to safety. She was taken to Homerton Hospital for observation and transferred to Hackney Hospital.

Police in warning to estate muscle gangs

POLICE say that teenage street gangs responsible for at least 10 burglaries a week on one of Hackney's most run-down estates are living on borrowed time.

The 16 to 19-year-olds divide their time between pumping iron and staging blatant daylight rob-

beries at flats on the Kingsmead Estate in Homerton. Police say they are drumming up support among fed-up residents to cure the problem for good and will soon be putting new initiatives into action.

A Hackney police spokesperson said: "Front doors are being kicked down. People see what is going on, but they are not coming forward because they are

just too scared about what will happen if they speak out."

Mostly it is videos, TVs and stereos to the value of £200 to £300 that go. In a lot of cases they just kick the door in when people are at home and ask where things are. Residents are just too scared to stop them.

"These are big lads. They spend a lot of time working out and they are heavily involved in

the drug trade," he added. Hackney cops are working on a number of schemes to tackle the problem and make life a little better for one of the most notorious estates in the East End.

"We are well aware of the problem and we will be looking at a number of ways to remedy the situation and get people to come forward and give evidence," the spokesperson added.

A Hackney Council spokesperson said tenants' association representatives, police and councillors have already met to talk about the problem.

"The council is looking seriously at the possibility of fitting security doors for tenants, but we feel that it is more important for tenants to be more vigilant on the estate," added the spokesperson.

GAY WRESTLER SLAMS POLICE

AMATEUR wrestler Steven Whinnery has hit out at the boys in blue, claiming he was banned from a police wrestling club for being gay.

The 36-year-old actor and writer, from Danesdale Road, South Hackney, says he was counted out of the Metropolitan Police Wrestling Club after shocked cops discovered he'd been queer-bashed in his native Glasgow.

Now the English Olympic Wrestling Association is investigating Steven's complaint that he was discriminated against because he is homosexual.

The keep-fit enthusiast had been wrestling at the club every Thursday since February with no hassle. "I didn't tell people that I was gay, but I

by CAROL DYCE

certainly didn't keep it a secret," he told the Gazette. "And no-one ever told me you had to be either a policeman or straight to join the club."

He had to miss a few weeks' wrestling as he had a cracked rib after being jumped by four gay-hating thugs while cruising in a park in Glasgow. The thugs bludgeoned him with a lead-filled sock. "I told club secretary Ian Bevan why I'd had to miss wrestling and word obviously got out," said Steven.

"When I turned up at the club, he and another coach met me outside. Ian told me the lads wouldn't turn up for the wrestling if I did and that the club would be in danger of closing. Although they didn't come out and say I was banned, I felt intimidated into leaving and, therefore, was effectively banned.

"This discrimination is outrageous - lots of

coppers obviously didn't like the idea of a gay man bundling on top of them. They feared sexual advances - but I can assure you that was very unlikely."

In his letter of complaint to the English Olympic Wrestling Association, Steven spelled out: "I went to the club to wrestle, not to have sex. If I want sex, I know where to find it. This is an obvious case of bigotry and ignorance."

Robin Tomlinson, the Association's PR officer, said: "The complaint is being considered by our executive council. Nothing in our constitution says anything about discrimination on the grounds of race or sexuality. Maybe this case will change that."

Mr Bevan, who is a sergeant at East Ham nick, refused to comment. A spokesperson for the Metropolitan Police said: "Club organisers did not ban or exclude Mr Whinnery. But he was told that members did not want to wrestle with him."



● Counted out - Steven Whinnery.

Police blow whistle on party inside old cinema

POLICE swooped on hundreds of revellers who held a massive Hallowe'en party in a derelict cinema which safety chiefs have declared unsafe.

The huge rave in the early hours of Sunday morning at the former Coliseum Cinema in Stoke Newington Road was attended by over 200 people.

Police from Stoke Newington raided the crumbling building and ordered the partygoers to leave after complaints from local residents about loud music from a live band who were performing.

Officers made two arrests for drunkenness and drug offences.

Artists take over

The derelict cinema has stood empty and unused since the late 1970s, but recently a group of artists have taken it over and used it to exhibit their "junk sculptures."

But six months ago, Hackney Council warned people that not only were they trespassing on private property, they were also risking their lives because the building was a dangerous structure.

A spokesperson for Stoke Newington police said the party had been halted because of the noise and to "safeguard those attending."

Det Sgt Tony Steel said: "Revellers could only gain access to the party on the first floor by climbing narrow stone steps without any banister rails. If there had been a fire, it would have been a death-trap, so we closed the party down."

Unlawful killing verdict on shot car salesman

STAMFORD HILL car salesman Lloyd Davis was killed unlawfully after a row over double parked cars, a coroner ruled this week.

Two weeks ago the man who admitted shooting him through the chest walked free from the Old Bailey with a £1,000 fine for not having a gun licence.

Mr Davis, 28, of Craven Park Road, was killed on April 23 after an argument with car dealer Barry Crane, 34, from Sussex, who shot Mr Davis outside the Tumpike pub in Stamford Hill after he lunged at Mr Crane with a knife.

There were angry scenes at the Old Bailey after Mr Crane was cleared of the murder and manslaughter of Mr Davis on the direction of Judge Kenneth Richardson, QC.

The judge agreed with a defence submission that there was insufficient evidence to prove that Mr Crane had intended or recklessly caused serious injury or death. He was fined £1,000 for possessing a firearm without a licence.

Poplar coroner Dr Douglas Chambers said the cause of death was a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Mr Davis's family want to take out a private prosecution for murder against Mr Crane through the civil courts.

Surgeons take cocaine from man's stomach

SURGEONS saved the life of a Hackney man after a bag of cocaine burst in his stomach when he was stopped by customs officers at Gatwick Airport on his way home from a holiday in Jamaica.

Tyran Robinson, 23, from Warneford Street, Homerton, was arrested as he walked through customs last Wednesday.

A Customs and Excise spokesman explained: "He was intercepted because he was suspected of having a drug package inside his body."

"During questioning he became ill and was taken to hospital where doctors carried out an operation on Saturday. They removed a quantity of cocaine which can cause an extremely high heart-rate and, in many cases, death," he added.

A spokesperson for East Sussex District Hospital said Mr Robinson was comfortable in the intensive care unit.

HC

13.11.92